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Air Algeria to buy new aircraft

Dutch doctor

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euthanasia (85) national carrier Air Algeria plans to buy new aircraft, the official Algerian news agency APS said on Saturday. "Air Algeria will carry out its fleet renewal starting 1996 or at the latest in 1997." APS. monitored in Tunis, said, The American quoting an Air Algeria official. The official said the carner was considering whether to buy two new planes every year or three every two years. It is the kind of the purchase financing which will ultimately determine the rate," he said without giving any over-Spending califf all figure.

Spending of Stolen kiss takes conference by

CAIRO (R) — A man : caused a stir at a U.N. crime dransmitted lifesize pictures ... back seats of the main conference hall. For two minutes banks of television screens Lext to a woman in a dress. leg and then he kissed her . Once, then the camera moved

ORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL DE PLO military court is 'temporary'

GAZA CTTY (AFP) — Palestinian chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said Saturday a Palestinian military court, criticised by Amnesty International, was temporary and a message to militants opposed to peace. Our objective is not to take actions that violate human rights." Dr. Shaath told reporters when asked to comment on a report by the London-based Amnesty International human rights group that criticised the Palestinian state security courts. "But the authority has to deliver a clear message that it will not accept or tolerate violations of this agreement or of its security." he said. referring to opposition to the Palestinian autonomy agreement with Israel. "The state security court is a message not a venue for the future behaviour of the Palestinian Authority." he said, adding rit is very difficult to maintain security at the same time as maintaining all the regular, legal precautions built into a civilian court." Dr. Shaath urged militants opposed to the peace process to join in building Palestine. "Lets commit ourselves ... and there will be no security courts," he said. Dr. Shaath's remarks were the first response by a Palestinian official to the report by Amnesiy International released on Thursday.

deat Arab political daily pol عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

AMMAN SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1995, THU ALQ'EDAH 30, 1416

Explosives store in Gaza — Arafat

GAZA CITY (AFP) - Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat on Saturday said Palestinian police have discovered a large store of explosives in Gaza City. Mr. Arafat, who announced the discovery of the arsenal at the weekly meeting assint. of his self-rule authority, warned he would take action against Palestinians storing bomb-making equipment in residential areas.
"Mr. Arafat said Palestinian security services will take the necessary measures against those who use apartments and residential areas to store dangerous material." said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the self-rule cabinet secretary. The PLO leader also called on Israel to prevent the infiltration of explosives and weapons into the autonomous areas, Mr. Abdul Rahim told the Palestinian agency WAFA. Mr. Arafat told his cabinet weapons smuggling was the wAPA. Mr. Araiat tota his caoinci weapons shingging was the work of "certain parties in Israel, working with parties in Gaza, who aim to torpedo the peace process." On April 2 six people, including two Hamas militants, died in huge explosion which flattened an apartment block in Gaza City centre. Palestinian police said the blast was caused by militants handling explosives at a bomb-making factory for Hamas.

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Treaty monitoring committee to

Volume 19 Number 5905

AMMAN (J.T.) - The lordanian-Israeli committee monitoring the implementation of the peace treaty that the Kingdom and the Jewish state signed in October meets in the Israeli town of Beit Shean today (Sunday) for a regular review of progress in negotiations on various sectoral agreements. Jordan's Hani Mulki and Israel's Eliakem Rubinstein will chair the meeting. Sub-committees negotiating agreements in civil aviation and trade are also scheduled to meet at the same venue on Sunday.

Americans mistrust government, but disapprove of militias

NEW YORK (AFP) - In

the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, a majority of Americans believe citizen militias are "dangerous" but also think the government is so big that it threatens personal freedom, according to a poll. Eighty per cent of those surveyed in the Time magazine-CNN poll said citizen militias under scrutiny following the attack are a danger to society, 63 per cent called them a "threat to our way of life," and 55 per cent termed them "crazy." But 52 per cent said the government is so large and powerful that it poses a threat to the freedom of ordinary citizens. In response to initiatives by President Bill Clinton and Congress for greater powers to combat terrorism, 61 per exat said the government already has adequate authority, while 33 per cent said more is needed. Three-fifths of those polled feared the government could abuse its authority if given greater ower to investigate terrorist activities.

Rabbani forces

KABUL (AFP) - Forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani have made significant territorial gains in fighting against Taliban religious movement rivals in west Afghanistan, military officials said Saturday. "In their Thursday morning widescale offensive, the forces pushed Taliban some 100 kilometres," spokesman for the state security department said. The official said pro-Rabbani forces were now advancing towards the district centre of Dilaram in Nimroze province, although the exact position of the

convicted in bit. TUNISIA (R) — Algeria's

Surprise conference in Cairo when the closed circuit camera system of him kissing a woman or one the scene appeared on giant dotted around the complex. There was a fat man sitting First he put his hand on her away." one witness said.

PNA blasts Israel's land seizure; Rabin says redeployment in making

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Israel's decision to expropriate Arab land in Jerusalem is the "highest form of terrorism" and aims at ridding the Holy City of Palestinians, a senior Palestine National Authority (PNA) official said Saturday.

Saeb Erakat, local government minister in the self-rule authority and a senior negotiator in its talks with Israel, said the Jewish state's "fait accompli policies" on settle-ments threatened his people's existence.

They "constitute actually the highest form of terrorism against the Palestinian people." he said.

He was speaking to reporters after a weekly meeting of the Palestinian cabinet, during which ministers decided to ask the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference to call urgent meetings to intervene in the

In a statement issued after the cabinet meeting, the PNA said it had also decided

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin said Saturday he

hoped to sign peace with

Syria before the end of his

current term in office in

"I hope that my govern-

ment will ratify an accord

with Svria before the general

elections of November 1996.

and that a referendum will be

held on the Golan issue sepa-

Rabin told Israel radio to

The scope and timetable of

an Israeli withdrawal from

the Golan Heights, seized

from Syria in 1967, is the

main stumbling block in

peace talks between the two

reach peace with Syria by

keeping the whole of the

Golan are deceiving them-

Washington next week to brief U.S. President Bill Clin-

ton on peace talks with Syria.

which are taking place at

ambassador level in the U.S.

"I will raise this issue next

week in Washington but I

cannot say whether this dis-

cussion will decide any-

thing," he said.
"I get the impression that

the Syrian demands, at least

at this stage, are over the top

and that is why there are

difficulties and delays," Mr.

The premier is to go to

selves," Mr. Rabin said.

"Those who claim they can

ınıversar

rate from the vote,"

the creation of Israel.

November 1996.

mark the 4/th

countries.

capital.

Rabin said.

Rabin hopes for peace

with Syria before polls

headed by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to confront on the ground such measures and to preserve the Arab Palestinian identity."

Israel has announced plans to confiscate 53 hectares of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem to build housing for lewish settlers, infuriating the Palestinians.

The PLO envoy to the United Nations asked the U.N. Security Council on Friday to take swift action to make sure Israel cancels orders to seize

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and this month's council president Karel Kovanda, PNA representative Nasser Al Kidwa argued that Israel had "taken a dangerous and destructive step. Such an action flagrantly

violates international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions. as well as the declaration of principles of 13 September 1993, signed by the governto form a high committee ment of Israel and the Pales-

"The gaps between the Sy-

rians and us on the main

components (of a peace deal)

are still wide." he told Israel

Public opinion polls show

sponsored talks in Washing-

Radio, giving no details.

wants peace."

tine Liberation Organisation," Mr. Kidwa wrote. Mr. Kidwa formally re-

quested that the council take urgent measures to redress this grave situation and bring an end to the above-mentioned Israeli We believe that the coun-

cil has the duty to order the Israeli authorities to desist from taking any further illegmeasures and specifically to rescind the declared confiscation orders," he added.

Palestinian demands of the council usually run into a refusal to review them on the part of the United States which has veto power as a permanent council member. The United Arab Emirates

(UAE) on Saturday also condemned Israel's proposed seizure of the land as a threat to the Middle East peace process. It appealed to the United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the process, to act immediately to save the peace talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yit-zhak Rabin said meanwhile cess," he added. Israeli Prime Minister Yit-

that the Israeli army is preparing to redeploy its forces in the West Bank in the framework of expanding Palestinian self-rule there. but added that the process would take time.

"Preparations are being made." Mr. Rabin said during an hour-long interview on state-run Israel radio.

"I asked the Israeli defence forces to adopt a plan preparing for the possibility that we will reach an agreement with the Palestinian Authority. Mr. Rabin said the rede-

ployment plan included the transfer of three training bases from the West Bank into Israel. Earlier in the week, Mr. Rabin revealed that he was

planning to move the bases and deploy other forces in the empty campsites. We will not evacuate these camps, but rather fill

them either with command headquarters or forces," he said on Saturday. "The issue of transferring

East.

Second suspect held in Oklahoma blast

OKLAHOMA (Agencies) — Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) officials were questioning a second suspect in California in connection with the deadly Oklahoma City carbombing that claimed at least 120 lives, police said. But Santa Menica, Califor-

Mr. Rabin trailing right-wing Likud leader Benjamin nia, police chief James Butts Netanyahu, who opposes any said there was "no evidence" withdrawal from the Golan. against the suspect other than Rejecting doubts raised recently by Israel's deputy forea close likeness to a composite sketch of "John Doe No. ign minister about Syria's de-2." the name police gave to clared "strategic" decision to the wanted man. forge peace with the Jewish state. Mr. Rabin said: police spokesman earlier

said that "a man in custody have no doubt that Syria on auto theft is being questioned by the FBI, related to In Damascus, an editorial the Oklahoma City bombin the government daily Al ing," without giving further Thawra accused Israel of faildetails. ing to "give anything new" in the latest round of U.S.-

The man, from Oklahoma, was arrested on Friday afternoon in Santa Monica, said Sergeant John Hudson.

"Israel has already begun There is no evidence to make the talks a failure by other than a close likeness to the composite of John Doe repeating its previous positions without giving anything new." Ameed Khouli, Al No. 2 that will connect him with the bombing." Mr. Butts told reporters. He Thawra's chief editor, wrote in a front-page editorial. looks amazingly like the guy in the sketch. Mr. Khouli said Syria

"He has the tattoo in the would never change its deright design in the right mands, including a full Israeli place," the police chief withdrawal to the border lines which existed on the eve of the June 5, 1967, Middle

The official death toll from the April 19 bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building here reached 120 Saturday with 61 people still unaccounted for, a rescue spokesman said.

Eugene Romann. spokesman for the government

emergency operations centre. said 467 people were injured in the truckbombing that tore through the building housing offices of some 15 government agencies and a day care centre.

At least 15 of the dead were children, officials said. On Friday, law enforcement sources said investigators had a tape showing the likely getaway car with an Arizona licence plate taken from a 1977 Mercury driven by accused bomber Timothy

McVeigh, 27, was arrested shortly after the blast for driving without licence plates and has been ordered to stand trial on charges of destruction of federal property. Authorities and friends have described as a Gulf war soldier with right-wing views and a long-time passion for arms and firepower.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times reported that four or five people may have planned the attack and that McVeigh was in contact with a military supply store in northern Wisconsin and the son of the store owner, who lives near Chicago.

The newspaper also reported attack may have been plotted in the small Arizona town of Kingman and said investigators sought to question two people in the town. including a former army colleague of McVeigh. Kingman, where McVeigh

(Continued on page 7)

AMMAN (Petra) - His building a better future. Majesty King Hussein Satur-King Hussein was speaking day underlined the need for the establishment of a just and comprehensive and dur-Royal Court.

able peace in the Middle He said that the people of the region require such peace

so that they can enjoy secur-

ity and resume their march

towards development and

at a meeting with the president of the Australian Senate, Michael Beahan, at the Mr. Beahan voiced Austra-

His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday meets Australian Senate Speaker Michael Beahan

King meets Australian speaker,

says people need peace to prosper

lia's appreciation of King Hussein's endeavours towards the establishment of a durable peace and towards

the coming generations. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Oasem and Australia's

Ambassador to Jordan

Jonathan Sheppard.

securing a better future for (See related story on page 3)

Jordan regrets U.N. rejection of RJ request for Libya flights

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Saturday reacted with dismay to a U.N. Sanctions Committee decision to turn down a request by Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines to carry Libyan pilgrims to Mecca for the

annual Haj season. "We are disappointed at the decision. We do not see any justification for rejecting (the RJ request) at a time when permission to carry (the Libyan pilgrims) was granted to other companies." Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who returned home Saturday after heading Jordan's delegation to a meeting by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to discuss the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in Bandung, Indonesia, told the Jordan Times.

The U.N. committee rejected Jordan's request Friday after the U.S. and Germany argued that no additional flights were needed since the committee last week authorised 45 flights by Egyptair planes to carry Libyan pilgrims.

The U.N. in 1992 enforced a ban on international air traffic to Libya for refusing to

change in postal services.

post offices.

they saw."

post offices.

According to a senior

"senior ministry officials vi-

sited serveral offices and

were not happy about what

The ministry sent a

memorandum to all post

offices last month, reiterat-

ing proper procedures for

providing the service at all

"The ministry has re-

ceived several complaints

regarding the postal ser-vices. the ministry

memorandum read, citing

several of the complaints

listed above. "These be-

haviours harm the reputa-

cused of involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in

The U.S. says that the previously authorised Egyptair flights are sufficient to carry

all the Libyan pilgrims to Mecca. Sources quoted by Reuters said the flights could carry 13.500 pilgrims while the quota for Libyan pilgrims is set by Saudi Arabia at 7,500. The committee did not object when Egypt announced it would carry more than the 6.000 pilgrims it initially said it would transport from Libya

to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Kabariti, who also led the Kingdom's delegation to the debate over the NPT in the U.N., reiterated his disappointment at the failure of the NAM and the Arab countries to reach a consensus on the position towards the extension of the NPT

The U.S. is lobbying for an indefinite extension of the treaty while Third World countries want a definite extension and guarantees about the use and spread of nuclear arms and power.

A major controversy over the NPT arose when Egypt linked its signing of the treaty

to Israel's acceptance to enter it. Israel reportedly has 200 nuclear warheads but refuses to sign the treaty or to declare itself a nuclear power.

Mr. Kabariti said he decided to "float" the Jordanian position on the NPT and refer the issue to His Majesty the King for directives.

In his speech before the U.N. in New York, the foreign minister did not endorse an indefinite extension of the

Jordan had said that its position on the NPT would be in harmony with the stand of the Arab League and the NAM. In an arrival statement Saturday, Mr. Kabariti said King Hussein had issued directives that the Kingdom be committed to any decision agreed upon by the Arab

But in light of the failure of the two groups to reach a consensus, Mr. Kabariti said. the Kingdom's position would be guided by the "Jordanian and national interest of the Kingdom."

He said in an interview in Jakarta Friday where he met with Indonesian officials that the position would be in harmony with the Oct. 26 peace

(Continued on page 7)

Postal services get a ministry stamping

By Amy Henderson Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — If you have noticed any pleasant changes recently at the post office, rest assured that the Ministry of Post and Communications is taking seriously public complaints about postal services. And if you haven't noticed, the ministry wants to know about it.

Ministry officials say they

are making a concerted effort to improve services by adopting new, strict procedures for offices, random office inspections, increased staff to handle mail from abroad, punitive action against violators of regulations - all after recelving repeated complaints of inefficient ser-

A visit to the post office is usualiy an unpleasant experience at best, given the lack of interest, courtesy and efficiency some of employees display, many customers say. The most evident consternation.

though, is the fact that the post office rarely has small change on hand. It is just a matter of principle, they say, that a customer should have the option to receive change no matter how small or insignificant the amount may seem. Among other complaints

"All security arrange-ments... should be applied on

both sides of the border and

accurately balanced. Any-

thing else would be re-

jected," he said.

customers lodge against the postal system are: A lack of information regarding postal rates and mailing procedures; overcharging for postage at particular offices; and lost or delayed mail from abroad.

Services at the post office, an English-language teacher says, is so unpleasant that it's on par with a trip to the dentist: she only visits when it is absolutely necessary.

"I put off going to the post office at all costs,' said the teacher. "Something always happens there to send me into a rage. "They never have change on hand," she continued.

"But if I walk in 20 fils

short the price of a stamp.

they look scandalised. I'm

happy to pay the full price. but why should I pay more? I get tired of negotiating for a fair price and for my change.

Another 30-year-old woman recounted a tale of bargaining with a postal employee at a post office over the cost of a 10 gram-me letter to the United States. "I know that my letter cost 320 fils — at the most 480 fils," she said. "The [employee] started the bidding at a dinar and made it clear that she wasn't going lower than 800 fils. I finally had to go somewhere else. This is the post office - not the souk."

"And I don't dare argue with the post office employees," said a young entrepreneur who runs a business just next door to a post office. He says that he worries about his mail not being put into circulation. Usually, I'll drive a kilometre or two out of my way to an office where I

know that the people are sure to do their job."

Residents with friends and family living abroad complain that letters and packages they were expecting had often gone missing. A letter from Jordanians studying at a U.S. university read: "We are facing the problem of lost letters we send to Jordan... we think that this is happening because some workers at the post service think there is money in the envelopes coming from the U.S.... as dumb and naive as this may sound, we think you would agree with us that this is a

very serious problem." Others complain about receiving open packages and letters, which they say makes them suspicious of the integrity of some postal employees.

The Jordan Times submitted a list of public grievances, along with its own findings following a trip to several post offices to the Ministry of Post and Communications (see side bar). Our motto had to be: It pays to complain. While the problem of

(Continued on page 7)

THE JORDAN TIMES missing mail will be more difficult to solve, officials conducted an informal insay they have taken serious vestigation of five post action and hope that by offices in central Amman now people should have posting five identical piles of mail, consisting of four witnessed at least a small

ministry source, these complaints have resulted in a Downtown — JD 2,980 near shakedown at local Jabal Luweibdeh -- JD 2.960 Jabal Amman, Ist Circle "I can tell you that after receiving these com-plaints," said the official,

— JD 2.800 Zahran - JD 2.640 Inter.Continental Hotel — JD 4.900

pieces each. The charges

were as follows:

All offices provided exact change, and all offices, with the exception of the office at the Inter Continental Hotel, provided the stamps to the customer. The employees at the Inter-.Continental office however, insisted that all stamps would be attached to the

parcels by the employees. The office charged JD 4.900 for stamps with a value of only JD 3.040. In addition to being charged nearly double at

the post office outside of the Inter. Continental

Weighing the scales Hotel, it was noted that the cost of postage varied be-

The Jordan Times submitted this information, along with a list of public complaints to the ministry which replied in turn.

The undersecretary for the Ministry of Post and Communications, Hisham Qudah, said that there could be several reasons for this as the scales were mechanical and may not have been properly balanced or may not have been sitting exactly level when the letters were balanced. He has instructed all offices to make sure

their scales are properly balanced. On the lighter side, however, all post offices, in fact, with the exception of the office at the Inter.Continental Hotel, undercharged for the cost of the post. (Savings amounted to a total of JD 1.240). No official commented on this

other than to say that an (Continued on page 7)

the key item."

The administration "has

had indications that this is

Mikhailov out on a limb and

it ain't going to happen," the official said. "At this point I

see no reason not to (believe

this) but it's something we're going to have to watch."

He said he did not believe

commitment to provide

Iran with enriched uranium,

a key ingredient in nuclear

weapons, was included in the

existing Russia-Iran contract.

cooperation on peaceful nuc-lear projects to pressure Mos-cow to drop the deal. It has also shared intelligence on

Iran with Moscow and said

Russia might get a share in a \$4.5 billion U.S.-North

But Mr. Kozyrev said Fri-

day: "I don't see why (the reactor deal) should be stopped. We will not do anything

which bears the potential for the nuclear military capacity

U.S. officials are working

with Russia on a possible summit statement in which

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton

lay out their positions on Iran

General Aideed was angry

that Mr. Ali Mahdi had pri-

vately imported "new Somali

skilling" bank notes to pay his militias.

The new Somali shillings

are now only accepted in Mr.

Ali Mahdi's enclave in north-

ern Mogadishu, while most of

the rest of the country uses

In northwestern Somalia.

the former British protecto-

rate that declared independ-

ence from the rest of the

country in May 1991, clan

leaders want to introduce

being printed -- Somalia has

not had a government for

four years — the currency is.

literally disintegrating in peo-

appearance of counterfeit

bank notes on the market

early this year - and used

them as tender - because

they were clean and looked

good, a Mogadishu resident

ple's hands.

said.

With no more banknotes

their own currency too.

old Somali shillings.

and where they differ.

Korea nuclear deal.

of Iran.'

Washington has withheld

U.S. says Russia may expand deal with Iran

top Russian official, to the alarm of the United States. has raised the possibility of providing Iran with bombgrade nuclear fuel in addition to atomic reactors, U.S. offi-

They said Washington learned about two weeks ago that the issue had been raised with Iran by Viktor Mikhailov, head of the cashstrapped Russian Atomic Energy Agency. Mr. Mikhailov is the lead-

ing advocate of an estimated \$1 billion deal to sell nuclear reactors to Iran, which Washington is trying to stop.

'Subsequent to our worries about the reactors, we discovered there have been some discussions between Mikhailov and Iran to do things that go well beyond the reactors, to include the provision of enriched uranium," one U.S. official told

This would "clearly go beyond what the (international) nuclear guidelines prohibit countries from doing," he said.

If such an expanded deal were to go forward, it would "substantially increase the risk" posed by Russian nuclear cooperation with Iran, although just providing reactors by themselves is serious enough, another U.S. official

Russian officials, including

MOGADISHU (R) -

Somalia's central bank was

blown to bits and looted

years ago but market forces still have a crazy way of working amid the anarchy of

this Horn of Africa country.

have flooded the capital be-

cause exporters are cashing in

on the Haj pilgrimage season

to Mecca by dispatching ship-

loads of goats for pilgrims to

As a result, the Somali

shilling strengthened on

Thursday from 6,300 to the

In early March, the shilling

took a fall from around 4,500

to about 6,500 shillings to the

dollar when United Nations

peacekeeping forces

evacuated after a failed two-

year, \$3 billion mission to

restore peace. The U.N. op-

eration in Somalia was the

country's largest single em-

who sit in Mogadishu's teem-

ing Bakaaraha market and

keep up to date with interna-

Rates are set by traders

dollar to 5,450 shillings.

This week, U.S. dollars

Kozvrev, in talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, have said Mr. Mikhailov is operating on his own and does not represent the views of President Boris Yeltsin's government.

That has not erased concerns in a U.S. administration that has made the Iran deal a major issue and a focus of the May 10 Moscow summit between Mr. Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Washington considers Iran a leading sponsor of terror-ism, on a "crash programme to produce nuclear weapons. It opposes all nuclear cooperation with Iran, arguing that even projects allowed under the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would help it acquire the expertise to pursue weapons-produc-

The Russian newspaper Isvestia and the Washington Post recently made littlenoticed references to an expanded deal with Iran. U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, explained those references but refused to provide much detail.

U.S. alarm bells rang in January when Russia signed a contract with Iran to build light-water reactors at Bushehr on the Gulf. Russian engineers are inspecting sites

Now, however, "we have seen some indication of a

tional currency markets by

listening to reports on the British Broadcasting Cor-

Many feared a return to

all-out civil war between rival

clan militias with the pullout

of U.N. forces, but that has

not yet happened and trade

has boomed at Mogadishu

anarchy when clan guerrillas

ousted former President

Mohammad Siad Barre in

The doors of the central

bank were blown apart, safes

were blasted and much of the

cash was looted. Bank notes

littered the streets outside.

the principles of economics.

the Somali shilling main-

tained value and is still used

al warlords - Mohammad

Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi

Mohammad - tore the city

apart in bitter feuding that in

part was caused by a quarrel

Mogadishu's two main riv-

But in apparent defiance of

Somalia was plunged into

Market forces still work in Somalia

poration.

January 1991.

Wives of American prisoners head for Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two American women whose husbands are serving eight-year sentences in Iraq for illegal entry into which is the reactor in a delux the country headed for Baghconfiguration and would make more problematic our dad on Saturday hoping to meet their husbands and non-proliferation concerns." possibly appeal for their rea third U.S. official said. lease to the Iraqi govern-"Uranium enrichment... was flagged (by U.S. experts) as

Linda Barloon, 37, and Kathy Daliberti, 39, crossed the Rweished border post shortly afternoon after getting visas from the Iraqi embassy in Amman and were expected in Baghdad late Saturday.

They were escorted by Ryszard Krystosik, head of the Polish diplomatic mission in Baghdad. Poland looks after American interests in Iraq after Iraq severed diplomatic ties with the U.S during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait.

Mrs. Barloon, who lives in Kuwait, and Mrs. Daliberti. who lives in Florida, did not go to the Iraqi embassy to get the visa. An employee of the U.S. embassy delivered the passports and collected the

away from the press, around 10 a.m., triggering a car chase through Amman

France to

cut aid to

- report

PARIS (Agencies) - France

is planning to cut financial aid

to Algeria to five billion francs (\$1.04 billion) this year

from six billion (\$1.25 billion)

in 1994, the newspaper Le

The daily, quoting un-

named senior government officials, said the cut would

not be announced until the

summer, well after the May 7

French presidential election.

mediately available from the

economy ministry.

No comment was im-

A French Foreign Ministry

spokesman said France will

maintain a high level of eco-

nomic aid to Algeria to pre-

vent economic chaos adding

to the country's political tur-

moil. No figure been fixed for

the aid "to the Algerian peo-

economic aid is to prevent

economic chaos adding to the

Le Monde said the cut,

linked to French budget sav-

ings, would be offset by

France's participation in the

rescheduling of its former

shift towards a cooler attitude

to the military-backed gov-

ernment in its fight against

Muslim fundamentalist re-

Algeria and the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF)

is expected next month to

sign an agreement on an eco-

nomic adjustment program-

me carrying \$1.8 billion cre-

followed with a rescheduling

of \$20 billion of Algeria's

debt in the Paris Club of

Prime Minister Edouard

Balladur has pledged that

pute over the hijacking of a

French airliner at Algiers air-

Western creditors.

The agreement is to be

But it said it was likely to

colony's foreign debt.

bels.

political chaos," he said.

said the spokesman.

"The aim of the French

Monde said on Friday.

Algeria

visas early Saturday. The two women were smuggled out of their hotels,

on outside Baghdad. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Friday that "we hope that there

loon spoke to the press at the Rweished passport control.

"We hope to meet them (husbands)," she told reporters, but she would not say whether she and Mrs. Daliberti would appeal to Iragi President Saddam Hussein for their release. "We will not discuss this with you," she said. William Barloon, 39, and

David Daliberti, 41, were detained by Iraqi border security forces on March 13 after they crossed into Iraqi territory. On March 25, an Iraqi court founded them guilty of illegal entry to Iraq and sentenced them to eight years in prison. A higher court is expected to hear an appeal in

May.
The U.S. government says that the two men wandered into Iraqi territory inadvertently. Some reports suggested that they were looking for Iraqi smugglers to buy alcohol for consumption.

The two wives were

bands shortly" after the cleared for travel by the U.S. government, which has banwomen's arrival in Baghdad. ned American travel to Iraq. It was not clear when the two women will be allowed to meet their husbands, who are

held in the Abu Gharib pris-

defence company Kay and Associated.

Amman from Kuwait on Friday and joined Ms. Daliberti. who flew a day earlier from Florida. The State Department said

on Thursday Iraq has allowed

letters to be delivered to two

Americans imprisoned in

Baghdad by a messenger af-

ter repeatedly denying direct

access to the prisoners by the

Mr. Barloon works for U.S. defence company McDonnell Douglas and has lived in Kuwait with his wife and three children for the past 2½ years. Mr. Daliberti works for the

will be meetings and reunions

scheduled with their hus-

Mrs. Barloon arrived in

Linda Barioon and Kathy Daliberli, wives of

two Americans jailed in Iraq, and Polish diplomat Ryszard Krystosik at the Rweished

Polish diplomat. The contact was the first in

and Mr. Daliberti, spokesman Burns said.

crossing point on Saturday (Photo by Yousef

... We were able to send a messenger to the jail and this person delivered mail, including a letter from Mr. Krystosik to Mr. Daliberti and Mr. Barloon, which explained that he had been denied access to them and that their wives were going to be arriving soon with other

two weeks with Mr. Barloon

Main Iraqi Kurdish groups to take part in Ankara talks

ANKARA (AFP) - The Turkish government has said talks would be held in Ankara in May with representatives of the two main Kurdish movements to discuss control of the common border.

Cenk Duatepe, head of the intelligence department in the Turkish foreign ministry, said no system had yet been established for border control, but he said a Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) delegation was expected before May 10 in Ankara, followed by a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) delegation later in the month.

Mr. Duatepe was speaking following a meeting Thursday with PUK leader Jalal Talabani in Erbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan.

between a Turkish government representative and a representative of a main Iraqi Kurdish movement.

Mr. Talabani told the Turkish delegation there were no armed elements from the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in his sector, according to the Turkish offi-

And he agreed to cooperate with Ankara "to examine together whether or not there was an armed PKK presence in his sector," said the Turkish delegation. On April 5 KDP leader

Massoud Barzani conditionally agreed to cooperate on border security. according to Turkey officials.

The statement from Ank-

Turkish campaign against separatist PKK rebels. Turkey reacted angrily, af-

ter the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly Wednesday recommended Turkey be suspended from the body if it did not improve democracy in the country and its human rights record within two months.

On Friday, the European Parliament gave the all-clear for a customs union agreement with Turkey later this year - provided Turkey respected human rights and democracy.

Meanwhile, Swedish Fore-Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen said Friday she would not recognise the customs un-

Turkey stepped up its struggle against militant PKK

separatists in mid-March in the southeast of the country. It also moved some 35,000 troops across the border into northern Iraq to crush suspected PKK bases, a move which has attracted widespread international cri-On Tuesday, Turkey, re-

sponded to criticism of its operations in northern Iraq by pulling two thirds of its troops out with the return of 20,000 soldiers.

However, Ankara did not say how long its remaining soldiers would stay in the border zone valleys or how it proposed to stop Kurd rebels mounting more attacks into

ion between the European ara came amid increasing in-Union and Turkey if the latter does not withdraw its It was the second meeting ternational friction over the Contractor said kidnapped or killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali gunmen in the southern port city of Kismayo have either kidnapped or killed a multi-millionaire New Zealand businessman with extensive interests in this war-torn Horn of Africa nation,

according to reports reaching Mogadishu. David Morris, head of be perceived in Algiers as a Morris Catering, based in Queensland, Australia, was

kidnapped and was still alive, according to one source. But other sources businessmen and fishermen contacted by radio - said Morris was dead, and that

they had seen his body. Morris, a blunt-spoken businessman, made his fortune by supplying provisions to U.N. troops in such trouble-spots as Cambodia, the

Middle East and Somalia. One of his sons, in his early 20s, was shot dead - an execution — following an ambush just outside Mogadishu in October 1993 in what former U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Victor Gbeho of Ghana said was a result of a business feud between Morris senior and Somalis.

Morris, who kept a picture

of his son in his wharfside office in Mogadishu, said 16 months after his death that "I have enough money, but I shan't leave here until I pro-

duce something positive. He was trying at that point to weld a coalition of Somalia businessmen to take over the running of Mogadishu port after the departure in early March of this year of the U.N. troops then controlling

That coalition is now up and running, and the port is operating, though it is unclear what influence Morris had in the creation of the committee.

Morris appeared to be a survivor — and savvy. In Mogadishu, he had his own armoured personnel carrier, painted white, and festooned with barbed-wire to

keep the joy-riders off. U.N. staff said Somali gunmen aboard "technicals" the battle-wagons that roam the streets of this lawless city would occasionally take pot-shots at it to see their

bullets bounce off. At his wharf headquarters, Morris had a hideaway ensconced between shipping containers, safe from incoming fire from the warring Somali

protect him, but accepted the protection of appropriate technicals when he went out into the city to negotiate with warlords.

His relations with the U.N. troops he fed were rough.

Mr. Gbeho replied that Morris was unscrupulous and that his behaviour bordered

on thuggery.

Morris's senior staff
were mostly New Zealanders and Australians, importing food and other supplies for the U.N. troops, plus at least one shipment of incredibly cheap cars from Saudi Arabia — one sporty model chalked for Morris himself — which were said by his staff to have

Morris Catering also operated a fish processing factory on the coast of northern

been stolen.

21:20

23:20

01:10

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Saturday he was awaiting con-

He had his own militia to

He described the U.N. officials to AFP in January as 'misinformed, misguided and bloody stupid."

firmation of reports that

Morris had been kidnapped or killed in Somalia. Mr. Evans said he had not had confirmation of the reports but "if true it would be

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extremely distressing." "People involved with the Morris Catering outfit, including David, have been very courageous and it would be just an absolute tragedly if this has happened." Mr.

Evans told reporters here. "But until I get confirmation or better information about what the circumstances, I'm afraid I cannot comment further."

Morris Catering spokesman Robert McVicker said Saturday that the U.N. was in no way to blame for Morris' reported killing.

Mr. McVicker told Australian radio, shortly before flying to Somalia, that the Morris family had paid a high price with the death of Tyson Morris last year in Somalia. "It was Tyson's wish that

the company move ahead and David continued his operations and, as the officers with the company, I agreed with the company, I agreed with thing the company of the tions and, as the director of to do," he said. "That's what Tyson would have wanted."

... Beirut, London (BA)

...... Amsterdam (KL)

HÍJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Assuman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET DDICES

for President Saddam Hus-Baghdad for the start of consein on his 58th birthday in struction of two mosques. one of them portrayed in Iraq

TIKRIT, Iraq (R) — About 100,000 Iraqis shouted praise his hometown on Friday and vowed to defend him to the

Brandishing guns, pistols, swords and daggers, tens of thousands of people swarmed past a reviewing stand in Tikrit, 170 kilometres north of Baghdad, yelling: "With our blood, with our souls we shall defend you Saddam."

The show of support was the greatest for President Saddam since the country's troops were driven out of Kuwait by U.S.-led allies.

defeat in the 1991 Gulf war in which Iraqi President Saddam, firmly in power despite the ruinous war and punitive trade sanctions imposed by the United Nations for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, was not pre-

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

The Iraqi News Agency said he attend ceremonies in as the largest in the history of Islam.

In Tikrit, formations of air force planes and helicopter gunships flew over the crowd as a military band played anthems in praise of the Iraqi

Tribesmen and chieftains travelled to Tikrit from Mosul, 200 kilometres to the north, and pitched tents along streets and the highway to Baghdad, offering free coffee and food.

Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, presided over the celebrations in the agricultural town where a parade of tribesmen and ruling Baath Party members under arms lasted for about two hours.

Ministry officials.

Papa Saddam."

armoured personnel carriers participated.

Iraq celebrates Saddam's birthday . Dancing and singing girls wearing Arab and Kurdish costumes swirled on the parade ground to the strains of folk music. Foreign journalists were permitted to attend under escort by Information

Iraqi radio and television aired special programmes and during the breaks a choir of young boys and girls sang: Happy birthday to you,

Shebab (youth television). run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, showed a military parade organised by a newly formed force of "Saddam commandos". Offi-cials said about 60,000 commandos with tanks and

"The birthday of the leader is the feast of all Iraqis," Al Thawra, the Baath Party newspaper, said in a banner

Paris would help Algeria win international economic aid. But France's backing to Algerian authorities has been markedly cooler since a dis-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 Princess Basma Hospital Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

. Moscow (SU) 16:15 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 21:05 Cairo (MS) Beirut (ME) London. Beirut (BA) Athens (OA) . Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

...... Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ) Aqaba, Rome (add) (RJ) 12:45 Amsterdam, New York (R) Athens (RJ) 13:00 Vienna (R.) leddah (21:30 .. Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 22-38 Bangkok (RJ)

PROGRAMME TWO Feature film: "Hockey Challenge Tarazan
.... Les Ratons Laveurs
..... Envoye Special News In French The Bold and the Beautiful 19:30 29:00 20:30 .. Almost Home The Other Side of Paradise News in English 22:00 22:20 Feature film: "Attack Force (Z)" 23:59 The Hidden Room 00:30 Grace and Favour

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweilleh, Tcl. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tcl. 637440.

De la Salie Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 Anglican Church Tel. 630K51, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: German-speaking Evangelical Conregation Tcl. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tcl. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295 WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm	1-
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Min./Max. temp.	_
Amman 8/2	y

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 26. Aqaba 31 Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

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r. Galeb Zawaideh	736011
r. Yousef Nasr	751144
r, Khaldoun Asfour	699440
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lajib pharmacy	847632
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r. Ahmad Qanu	(—)
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Civil Defence Immediate
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Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police
The Carles
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 6/15×00
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
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Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 66[10]
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
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HOSPITALS

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Il-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
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FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

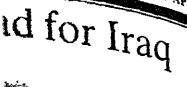
INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

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	Damascus (R.
10:05	Larnaca (R.
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Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Rome (AZ)

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday listens Ghazaleh at the opening of a conference

to an address by General Federation of on the effects of husbands' immigration Jordanian Women President Haifa Abu on the family (Photo by Crvstal)

Experts seek to ease burden on women The Burn Salbert whose husbands immigrate for work

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

or were cold the AMMAN - With the increasing numbers of husbands immigrating in search of better wages, problems within the family increase as a result, and mothers bear he heaviest burden, experts

> The negative effects of a hishand's immigration on his family is being tackled in a two-day conference opened Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) which organised the conference, said the event, the first of its kind in the Arab World, aims at studying legislative, economic, and soto the control of the cial changes that occur following husbands' immigra-

> "Although husbands' immigration yields good financial outcomes, it will negatively affect the entire family and the way children are

zaleh said addressing repre-sentatives of public institutions and non-governmental organisations.

Director of the Arab League Population Research and Studies Unit (PRSU) Mahmoud Sayed pointed out that more than one quarter of the male labour force of Arab countries left their families to seek work in other countries which has resulted in mothers managing their families on their own. The focus will be on the

Arab woman and her capabilities of dealing with these new responsibilities and how that will reflect on her children in the future," he said. In doing so. Dr. Sayed said, participants will review some studies conducted by

Arab centres concerning fathers' immigration and the effect on the family. Dr. Sayed stressed that the outcome of the event would push decision makers and leaders to become more aware of the negative effects

The event, coorganised by the PRSU and held at the Regency Palace Hotel, will conclude its sessions today with papers on two subjects. One is statistical presentation on immigrant families from Jordan by Abdullah Zoubi of the Department of Statistics.

The second paper is on the legal and legislative services introduced to the families of immigrants and will be presented by Dr. Abu Ghazaleh and Senator Na'ela Rashdan.

The GFJW, established in 1981, is a national nongovernmental organisation comprising women's associations, societies, committees and individual members.

Queen Noor, the honorary president of GFJW, who has spearheaded many projects aimed at raising the economic. social, health and educational standards of Jordanian women, has commended the federation on its constructive approach towards the challenges and obstacles impeding the development of of Palestinian land in Arab East Jerusalem tices and their outcome," he

> The Israelis and Palestinians have been trading angry accusations in recent days over Israel's latest confiscation of Arab-owned land in Jerusalem, Israel intends to build new neighbourhoods on these lands to house Jewish immigrants.

The Palestinians said Israel violated the Israeli-PLO peace accord, and that they would complain to the U.N. Security Council.

Israeli newspapers Friday said the seizing of Palestinian land in the holy city was expected to continue.

The future of Jerusalem is the most explosive issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem are to begin by May 1996.

Earlier this week, Israel confiscated 140 acres in two areas in Arab East Jerusalem, and Israeli sources said an additional 1,100 acres were armarked for confisca-

House panel condemns Israeli confiscations

Dr. Ensour said the committee also discussed the death of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons as a result of torture as reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Jordanian Lower House Committee, he said. has received information from the Red Cross on the torture and death of Palestinians under Israeli detention. This raises disgust among

> world in spite of the silence of the West which is known for its double standards," Dr. Ensour said.

human beings all over the

what would the reaction of the biased and unfair mass media be had the victim been Israeli?" asked the committee chairman.

Press reports on Friday said a Palestinian who died in Israeli custody was tortured to death.

The detainee, identified as Abdul Samad Harizat, was beaten for 20 minutes, had his head banged against a wall and was then left alone in a tiny isolation cell. Israel media said.

An agent of the Israeli Shin Beth secret service who entered the cell several hours later to pursue the interrogation found the 30-year-old computer programmer unconscious. He died a few hours later in hospital on Tuesday, reports said.

Dr. Ensour said the com-

works beneath Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, an Israeli group on Saturday denounced Israel's decision to confiscate Arab-owned lands in Jerusalem and said the decision is a serious breach of

the Oslo agreement. The committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue, founded by Israelis of oriental origin, said the continuation of confiscations and settlement activities, particularly in the Jerusalem area, threatens the peace process.

"This makes the Israeli government take full responsibility for the failure of the peace process, and we ask it to rescind its decision immediately." the committee said in a statement.

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of fathers' immigration and Tuntar . brought up," Dr. Abu Ghathe heavy burden mothers TUOSO E **Education ministry to** an dinder तातः तस्य implement vocational Training plan — official

AMMAN (Petra) - The the next scholastic year in accordance with the require-Educational Plan, according to Ali Nasrallah, director of vocational training at the

. . . jF. . 18 in creasing the scope of voca-

> The plan, he noted is to be implemented shortly in coopand Development.

graduate skilled individuals to fill major gaps in the local labour market and to meet the requirements of the Kingdom's socio-economic de-· velopment plans.

The two plans, however, emphasise quality in that they are designed to enable the trainees to acquire advanced skills and the vocational schools to produce items needed for the students, said Dr. Jaradat who added that the ministry plans to promote closer cooperation between the vocational schools and private and public institu-

tional training at ministry schools lacked proper supervision, noting that such supervision is now getting the right attention.

The vocational supervisors, who came from different educational departments in Jordan, are to review working papers dealing with various aspects of vocational training and management.

Save water... every drop counts.

Visiting Australian legislators explore how they can contribute to peace process AMMAN (Petra) - Visiting

President of the Australian Senate Michael Beahan told the Upper House of Parliament Saturday that his team's visit to Jordan was aimed at familiarising itself with the progress of the peace process in the Middle East and to determine the role which Australia could play in this pro-

Lower House of Parliament

Foreign Affairs Committee

Saturday condemned Israel's

confiscation of Palestinian

land in Arab Jerusalem and

said this action constitutes a

violation of the Palestinian-

Committee Chairman

Abdullah Ensour said the

committee, in a meeting ear-

lier Saturday, discussed these

Israeli practices, which, he

said, constitute a breach of

the Israeli-Palestinian agree-

ment reached in Oslo, the

Madrid Middle East peace

conference which launched

the Arab-Israeli peace talks in 1991, and United Nations

Dr. Ensour said the com-

mittee found that such prac-

tices challenge the feelings of

"We will continue to de-

Arab and Islamic peoples.

resolutions.

Israeli agreements.

Mr. Beahan also noted that the visit also aimed at exploring means of promoting further economic and trade relations with Jordan, adding that bilateral ties were very

good at the moment. Referring to a visit to Australia by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation earlier this month, Senator Beahan said the visit was fruitful, noting that the Australian

its ties with Jordan's legislature and exchange working

The Australian delegation, which arrived here from the occupied Arab lands Friday on a three-day visit to Jor-dan, listened to Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi outline Jordan's position with regard to peace with Israel.

His first deputy, Zeid Rifai, briefed the visitors on the progress of the peace process and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, stressing that the Arabs desire a comprehensive peace which would bring about an improvement in social and economic condi-

With reference to the Amman economic summit due in October, Mr. Rífai, a former prime minister, said Jordan hopes it will be successful and economic summit which, he said, merely raised slogans which were considered inapplicable.

Mr. Rifai said that the peoples of the Middle East would like to feel the benefits of peace and they remain optimistic and full of hope. The Australian team Satur-

day also met with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Srour and discussed the peace process and Jordan's democratic march as well as Jordanian-Australian relations. Mr. Beahan said he hoped

that the Australian and Jordanian parliamentarians would continue to exchange visits and cooperate in parliamentary affairs.

Also Saturday Senator



Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Saturday receives visiting President of the Australian parliament Michael Beahan and an accompanying delegation (Petra photo)

Beahan and his delegation visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met RSS Vice President Saeed Alloush who briefed the group on the RSS's different departments, programmes and projects.

Dr. Alloush referred to RSS's cooperation with Arab and foreign countries and Australian institutions of scientific research, and said be looked forward to further

Ministry.
Address Addressing the opening session of a two-day symposium for vocational training supervisors, Mr. Nasrallah also announced that the ministry has prepared a comprehensive plan aimed at intional training at schools and encouraging more students to opt for this stream of study.

eration with international experts and the National Centre for Educational Research The two plans, added Mr. * Nasrallah are designed to

AMMAN (Petra) — The The meeting, which is Ministry of Education will, attended by 80 vocational implement a new vocational training supervisors, was training plan at the start of opened by Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat who complained that the previous vocational training programmes concentrated on quantity rather than quality.

He said in the past, voca-

Officials say summer water rationing imminent but schedule, severity still to be decided

By Cathy King Jordan Times Staff Repor-

AMMAN — Summer water rationing will be imposed again this year, but the schedule and severity of it has yet to be decided and water authority officials say that improvements to the Greater Amman network cannot alone solve the problem in the capital

There will be rationing this summer, but to a lesser extent than in the past. said Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Under Secretary Qusai Qtaishat Saturday.

"Hopefully people won't feel it. With storage tanks you can have about three days supply without noticing there isn't continuous

Summer water rationing began in 1991 and is partly attributable to larger demands following the influx of more than 300,000 returning expatriates from the Gulf region.

Jordanians working in the Gulf were returned home because of a strain in relations between the Gulf states and Jordan during and after the 1990-91 Gulf

" said Mr. Qtaishat, who added: "We can't tell though, because it depends rate and the change in the style of living. Living standards are on the rise and people are consuming more water.

Mr. Qtaishat explained that even with household storage tanks, the water problem still remains and will be felt should there be "unexpected reduction" of flow from the King Abduliah Canal, a power cut, or a breakdown in the network.

The Jordan-Israel peace treaty, signed on Oct. 26. stipulated that the Kingdom is to receive an additional 215 million cubic metres (mcm) of water annually. The allocation of water from the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers is divided between the summer and winter periods. Now only six months since the peace accords, water from these two sources has yet to be received in full.

As yet, the WAJ has not decided how the 215 mcm will be allocated and distributed between agricultural and domestic use. "The allocation of it has

not been decided upon.

for domestic use, but until it comes, there will be a (water) deficit," Mr. Qtaishat

cooperate in finding an additional quantity of 50 mcm of drinkable water for the Kingdom's supply. The Joint Water Committee is to develop a plan

will be forwarded to the respective governments for discussion and decision. One additional supply Jordan intends to exploit, is the unreplenishable fossil water of the Disi aquifer. said WAJ civil engineer and

has been issued for bidding, then pending government approval, the design and construction of the facility may be opened to the private sector is still to be obtained, Mr. Kurdi said. In the meantime the

quires Jordan and Israel to Times.

for this supply within one year from entry into the treaty, and then the plan

head of the Tenders Division Othman Kurdi. The WAJ is seeking priworks of Jebel Nasser and vate sector investment to conduct a feasibility study for this project. The tender

WAJ is striving to reduce

the amount of water unaccounted for through physical losses.

"Over the whole country.

(passing through the network) cannot be accounted for. Some through physical losses and some through Mr. Kurdi told the Jordan

Underflow registration occurs because water meters cannot register small quantities of water passing through them. To combat these prob-

lems, parts of the network have already been rehabilitated. In Zarqa, Mr. Kurdi said,

the whole network has been replaced. "You never see a burst pipe and water pressure is maintained at a normal rate. You no longer find a thin stream coming out the tap." To date, only the net-

Nadi Subbaq areas within Greater Amman have been replaced, using the water authority's budget. In December 1993, the water authority concluded a

loan agreement with KFW, the German development bank. "KFW guaranteed a loan for two projects," said Mr. Kurdi. "The first is under

award now, and the second will be issued (for bidding) by early June." The first includes Jebel

and should begin by the end in Jebel Hussein.

"The number of projects drawn according to geog-raphical boundary." he said. The Greater Amman net-

work stretches 1,800 kilometres. Mr. Kurdi was unable to predict how much of it would require replacing, because it depends on the state of the existing network.

Priority areas are those with the oldest network. which includes the areas within the first two projects and will cost about JD 10 million, Mr. Kurdi noted. With physical work imminent, Germany has "ex-

pressed an interest to take over the remaining projects." he revealed. "Germany promised to make an appraisal of the

remaining work," he Mr. Kurdi conceded that to "rehabilitate all of Greater Amman might add up to

mission and to assess the

JD 50-60 million." Network rehabilitation, plus extensions to newly developed areas, will take five or six years to complete, he added. Over that period,

the gradual reduction of unaccounted water should be felt in all areas, he said. "We won't get rid of the

problem of unaccounted everywhere (worldwide). but the WAJ aims to diminish the problem as best it

Meanwhile, the Euronean Investment Bank (EIB) has approved a loan for the Jordan Water and Waste Water III Project.

"Although the money has not yet been received, there are only formalities remaining," Mr. Kurdi

There are seven projects within the loan's realm: Mafraq water, Ajloun water, Zarqa, Irbid, Souf and Greater Amman waste water projects and the waste water treatment plant for Fuheis and Mahes.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has also earmarked an unspecified amount to upgrade and expand the waste water treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra and intends to conduct a feasibility study for an environmental system for waste water treatment and collection in the Amman/Zarqa basin, Mr.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Film entitled "Beyond The Stars" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

JEWELLERY DISPLAY An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khammash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at

Darat Al Funus).

SPRING EXHIBITIONS The Queen Alia' Fund for Social Development spring exhibition at Beit Al Bawadi of "Rus and Ceramics,"

Medina Munawara Street. Annual spring exhibition: "Donors of Opportunity" by the Bani Hamida at the Jordanian Constitution Contractors Association Building, Abdoun (Tel: 658696). Spring exhibition of the culture of the Caucasus (hand-

icrafts, photos, videotapes, etc.) at Plaza Hotel.

DIALOGUE

actress Muna Wasef at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITION Art & Nature Landscapes" (contribution on urban and residential environment design from an artist's point of view) at the Cultural and Sport Centre of the Amman Municipal-

☆ Exhibition of paintings of Rizq Abdul Hadi at Baladna

Art Gallery. * Exhibition of contemporary calligraphy at the National

Museum of Fine Arts. ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Lebanese artist Karim Al

Hage at the Royal Cultural Centre.

☆ Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. ☆ Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memor-

ia" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

P.O.Box: 154 KHALDA - AMMAN 11821 JORDAN -Tel. 827151, 827152, 827153, 827154 - Fax 816894

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AN ART EXHIBITION TO BE HELD

AT THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL The two famous French Artists (Jean Cotté) and (Isabelle Granier) will exhibit their paintings at the New English School in Khalda

under the Patronage of

Her Majesty Queen Noor on Thursday 4/5/1995. The exhibition contains paintings which have been inspired by the

environments and heritage of both Jordan and France. The Exhibition will be open to the public on Friday 5th May 1995 till Sunday 14th May 1995.

from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Deng reported

HONG KONG (R) — C na's aged paramount Deng Xiaoping was ill

high temperature earlies

danger, the South Ca

Morning Post newspaper

Saturday. Speculation a

the frail 90-year-old lead health intensified this w

after reports that his child

were staying close to how

sources as saying Mr. Den condition had been poor i

had now stabilised. He

still able to walk with as

ing, it said.

Churchill's

grandson wins

on lottery - again

LONDON (AFP) - Con-

ance but had trouble spea

The Post quoting unni

week but was not or

ill, but out of danger

S. Koreans rampage over blast

TAEGU, South Korea (R) - Weeping relatives demanded compensation Saturday for the loss of 100 of their loved ones, most of them children, killed when a gas blast devastated a swathe of South Korea's Taegu City.

Police investigating Friday's blast said prosecutors would seek the arrest of three officials of a small engineering firm which was working at a shoping centre project near

The relatives' grief turned to anger when around 60 of them besieged a local council office, accusing ashen-faced officials of neglect and of leaving corpses from the blast to rot in city morgues.

Dozens of bodies are rotting at the hospitals because they don't know what to do with them," a weeping parent

The relatives smashed desks and chairs at an office hastily converted into an emergency centre after the explosion ripped through a central district of South Korea's third largest city, 240 kilometres south of Seoul.

Taegu Mayor Lee Jong-Ju spoke to the families later and said loved ones of each victim would get a preliminary compensation payment of four million won (\$5,250) to help with funeral expenses.

A police spokesman told Reuters the three men sought by prosecutors were officials of Standard Engineering and Construction Inc.

"Prosecutors are seeking the arrest of these three men in connection with the gas explosion," the police official

grim-faced President Kim Young-Sam, reeling from yet another man-made disaster in his term of office. visited the scene of the blast and ordered a swift probe.

"I don't know what to say now. In particular I want to express my deep condolences on the death of these young students," Mr. Kim said after touring the scene.
Of the 98 official death toll

so far, 48 of the victims were children heading for schools in the area when the explosion hurled cars, trucks and buses through the air like toys. Thirty-five were from nearby Yongnam Middle School.

"How could this happen to my children? I am simply at a loss for words," school principal Lee Kil-Woo said. The blast turned massive

steel plates laid as a temporary road surface over the subway works into a deadly hail that crushed all in their path, including pedestrians. Vehicles tumbled into the

yawning construction pit, including some buses carrying the children to school.

At the scene of the disaster, rescuers ended a painstaking sift through debris, saying they no longer expected to find any more bodies.

A spokesman for the subway construction company said its preliminary investigation showed the accident happened when a digger working at the shopping centre project opened up an eight-centimetre (five-inch) fracture in a gas main.

The gas then seeped into the cavernous hole where subway work was under way. A welding torch or a cigarette may have sparked the devastation, he said.

"According to our own checks, there was no destruction or damage of a gas pipeline in our construction sector," he told reporters. He said a worker reported the smell of gas 10 minutes be-fore the blast. Less than five months ago

a similar blast killed 12 in Seoul and three months before that 32 died when a bridge in the South Korean capital collapsed.

The gas blast plunged South Koreans into a crisis of soul-searching Saturday amid calls for the government to insist on tougher building safety measures.

"Another man-made disaster... puts Korea to shame.' ran a headline of the influential Chosun Ilbo. "It's dreadful to live in this world," said

another newspaper headline. People reacted with frustration and outrage as newspapers and television reports repeatedly suggested the tragedy could have been avoided if there had been proper safety measures. "The government always

locks the stable door after the horse has bolted. If it paid attention to safety measures a bit more, this kind of accident would not happen," said volunteer rescue worker Park Wol-Bun in Taegu. Analysts have blamed the

spate of disasters on corruption, poor construction work and non-enforcement of regulations in the country's headlong pursuit of economic

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Tamil rebels have shot

down two air force planes in

the northern Jaffna peninsu-

la, killing 90 people, the

down by the Liberation Ti-

gers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

Friday and the second Satur-

military statement said:

ing to the air force came

under LTTE missile attack

approximately seven

kilometres outside the de-

HO CHI MINH CITY, Viet-

nam (AP) — With tears for the dead and gestures of

friendship to its onetime No.

1 enemy, the United States.

Communist Vietnam pre-

pared Saturday to celebrate

the 20th anniversary of its

were recalled, banners proclaimed the victory against

U.S.-backed South Vietnam

and parades were planned

here Sunday, official stress

was on reconciliation and

marching forward on the eco-

Although wartime horrors

Of the Saturday downing,

"An Avro aircraft belong-

The first plane was shot

military said Saturday.

day morning.

after a gas explosion in Taegu. South Korea A rescue worker hoists a subway construction worker from an underground construction site (AFP photo)

The Han-Kyoreh Shinmun newspaper said in a editorial the disasters could develop into a major political crisis for President Kim.

"The disasters and the massive death of innocent people raise serious doubts about the government's capability to manage the state," it

Officials of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) fear the blast could hurt its results in June 27 local elections, the first major

fended area. As a result the

aircraft crashed approximate-

ly 1.5 kilometres outside the

defended area. The aircraft

was completely destroyed

and all passengers including the crew killed."

It said that as the missile

was about to hit the aircraft,

the pilot had shouted over his

radio "missile attack." The

plane had taken off from the

Anuradhapura military base

in the north central district

and was descending to land at

the Palaly Air Base on Jaff-

Vietnam mourns dead, seeks better U.S. ties

Sri Lankan rebels down

political test for Mr. Kim, who took office in February

'We have no words to say. Our party will refrain from holding political rallies for the time being," a DLP official said.

Opposition groups stepped up attacks on Mr. Kim's lead-

"It is unimaginable that such an accident took place despite President Kim's repeated stress on safety checks at major public facilities," said

The 52 dead were 30 sol-

diers, five sailors, 12 airmen,

two policemen and three

journalists from a Sinhalese-

On Friday, another plane

crashed soon after takeoff

from Palaly, killing 38 ser-

vicemen. The military had

said the crash was due to an

from Jaffna yesterday's air

crash pointed to an engine

fire, it has now been revealed

that a similar missile attack

caused the air crash...," military statement said.

Although initial reports

language newspaper.

engine catching fire.

Park Ji-Won, spokesman of the main opposition Demo-

cratic Party. Only six months ago, Mr. Kim stood before a microphone, his head bowed, to apologise for government oversights blamed for the Seoul bridge collapse.

lapse of the Songsu Bridge, the explosion has been caused by the government's indifference to safety matters," said Cho Hae-Woong, a Seoul company official.

Ground controllers had

told the pilot they saw a port

engine on fire shortly after

The pilot of the twin-

engined Avro turned to try to

land, by which time the fire

had spread to the whole

wing. The pilot crashed two

metres short of the runway.

their own homeland in the

north and east of Sri Lanka.

earlier this month ended a

14-week truce with the gov-

ernment by attacking two navy gunboats and killing 12

The Tigers, fighting for

take-off in driving rain.

servative MP Winston Chur-chill won £40 (\$60) on the National Lottery Friday two "Like the case of the coldays after receiving £13 million (\$20 million) from lot-

tery funds for his grandfather's papers. The grand-son of British World War II leader Winston Churchill bought two winning tickets at a newsagent's in the northern city Manchester. A political 2nd plane; 52 killed row developed Thursday over the government's payment of more than £13 mil-

Delors to get

Japan's highest

grandson.

lion in National Lottery pro-

fits to buy the wartime prime

minister's archives from his

TOKYO (AFP) — Former European Commission Chairman Jacques Delors will be among the recipients of Japan's highest official award, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, officials said Saturday. Frenchman Delors, 69, will receive the award for his contribution to the development of economic relations between Japan and Europe, they said. The annual award ceremony will be held on May 8 at the Imperial Palace here. Polish film director Andrzej Wajda, also 69. will receive the third highest his contribution to the promotion of cultural exchanges,

Bush visits Normandy beaches

the officials said.

CAEN, France (AFP) Former U.S. President George Bush visited the Normandy beaches which were the site of the D-Day landings in 1944, officials said. Accompanied by his wife Barbara, Mr. Bush spend nearly an hour of the private visit at the U.S. military cemetery at Colleville, near Ohama Beach, where some 10,000 soldiers are buried. He also visited Bayeux and La Pointe Du Hoc, situated between Omaha Beach and Utah Beach, during the visit, which was kept secret for security reasons, the officials

Pipe smokers' championship to

PARIS (AP) — Pipe lovers will test their smoking skills at the first annual pipe smokers' championship in the French Alps. France has long been considered a smoker's paradise; nearly threefourths of the population smoke. But the pleasure doesn't stop at being free to smoke in restaurants and other public places without scorn. The Saint-Claude Pipe Club is holding its three-day "Europipe 95" show beginning Saturday to promote the puffing medium, particularly St. Claude's own. In the championship Monday, it will provide competitors with one heather pipe, a pipe stuffer, three grams of tobacco, and two matches. The smokers will have 5 minutes to prenute to light up. The winner is the one who is able to keep 😇 his or her pipe going the longest without relighting-The current record to beat for such a feat is 3 hours 9 minutes and 3 seconds. Aside from all the competitive hoopla, the participants can take

India plans elections in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India is expected to announce plans soon for holding elections in the strife-torn northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, under direct federal rule since a rebellion broke out in

1990, officials said Saturday. They said the government was working on a set of proposals for holding elections after a five-year period of direct federal rule expires on

Officials said the Indian parliament would be required to pass a law for any further extension of New Delhi's direct rule in Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in

predominantly Hindu India. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told parliament Friday that the government would soon come out with "clear-cut proposals" to revive the electoral process.

"I would take parliament into confidence shortly aboutthe steps we propose to take to restore complete normalcy in the state," Mr. Rao said. on over the demand for more autonomy for Kashmir, but he did not set a time-span for holding the polls.

Police and hospital sources say more than 17,000 people have been killed in the separatist rebellion, which India accuses neighbouring Pakis-

cess in the intensified opera-

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — The second mafia suspect to

die within two days was

found murdered in a small

town near Palermo, police

The body of Gaetano Bus-cemi, a 29-year-old florist

with a record of mafia crime,

was found with his arms and

legs strapped behind his back

in Villabate, 20 kilometres

Police said Buscemi had

from the Sicilian capital.

said Saturday.

tan of inciting.
Mr. Rao, who claimed suc-

tion by the security forces against the separatists, said the mood in the state was relaxed following interactions between political parties and some secessionists leaders, who were recently released

Shabir Shah, a Kashmiri separatist leader, who was freed four months ago after 20 years in Indian jails, held out hopes earlier this month for elections if the United Nation monitored them and the new government was allowed to start peace talks with India and Pakistan.

Mr. Shah, whose People's League is a member of Kashmir's multi-party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, said he had asked its Muslim leaders to accept the participation of the region's minority groups in future peace talks. The Hurriyat has so far

officially opposed Indian plans to hold elections in Kashmir, saying it would divert attention from its demand for self-determination. leaders represent Muslim

guerrilla groups. Most want the Himalayan region to merge with Islamic Pakistan. Others say it should be independent of Indian and Pakistaní control.

India rules two-thirds of Kashmir, with the rest controlled by Pakistan. The two neighbours have fought three wars, two of them over Kash-

probably been abducted and

strangled Friday.

He was believed to have

been a friend of Glovanni

Spataro, who was shot dead

Friday by four men disguised

as police who flagged him down while he was riding his

motorcycle through Villa-

Mr. Spataro was under in-

vestigation for association

with the mafia after a turn-

coat said he belonged to the

2nd mafia suspect murdered in Sicily

mir, since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. India's main opposition. the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), opposes polls in Kashmir, accusing the government of seeking to project a false picture of stability in the state ahead of India's general elec-

tions due by June next year. Meanwhile two powerful explosions blamed on Muslim guerrillas rocked Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar before dawn Saturday, injuring six people and damaging scores of buildings, police

The first blast virtually razed a building housing two Indian banks in the commer-'cial and residential area of Batmaloo. A second blast occurred minutes later near the residence of a retired senior police officer, the

The Kashmir Police Headquarters and the government secretariat were among several buildings in the vicinwhich were heard all over

The blasts caused two huge craters and triggered panic in Srinagar, the urban hub of a bloody Muslim separatist

local Di Peri clan, judicial

Last month, 46-year-old

Giuseppe Di Peri and his son

Salvatore, 23, also from Villabate, were shot dead in

their car as they drove up to

A spate of mafia murders

has now claimed at least 15

lives since late February fol-

lowing two years of relative

sources said.

the family home.

peace on the island.

nomic front. campaign in Kashmir state. "We won completely the "It was like an earthmost barbarous and aggresquake," one resident said. sive war in the history of the Two of the injured were identified as security person-

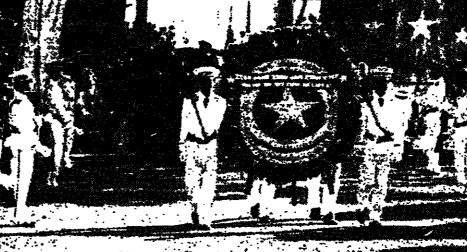
nation, a war with genocidal crimes such as My Lai-Son My and B-52 bombings and agent orange," said Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in the capital Hanoi. But he urged Vietnamese

to "shut the past and look to the future to raise our national spirits, expand international relations and to work together with other countries for peace, cooperation and development.'

In a speech he called for continuing freemarket-style reforms under the policy of

"doi moi" or renovation.
The mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, Truong Tan Sang, said Vietnam's pride in its reunification should not be seen as evidence of anti-Americanism. "I can assure you that we would not do anything to invoke the ghost of past animosity between our two countries," he told reporters.

Far different sentiments were evoked on April 30, 1975 when Communist forces captured the capital of South Vietnam, then known as Saigon, on the heels of



An honour guard carries wreath in the proces-

anniversary of the fall of Saigon. Vietnamese sion to honour the dead at the War Martyrs' throughout the country are paying hommage Cemetery Saturday on the eve of the 20th to those killed during the Vietnam War (AFP)

fleeing Americans. Washington was then the reviled enemy, and strict Marxist-Leninism was the order of the

While yet to forge full di-plomatic ties, the U.S. and Vietnam set up liaison offices in each other's capitals in January and President Bill Clinton ended a 19-year economic embargo last year. Hanoi is eager for full relations, believing this will further sour its economic de-

velopment. On the eve of the anniversary, people across the country mourned the dead, although official ceremonies were restricted to cemeteries of Communist soldiers. The poorly tended burial places of the South Vietnamese were largely

By official count, 1.1 million Communist and 223,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died during the conflict together with some 2 million civilians from both sides. The United States lost 58,200 killed in action while its allies from South Korea, Australia,

New Zealand and Thailand suffered 5,200 dead. At the Lac Canh Cemetery north of Ho Chi Minh City widows and mothers wept and burned joss sticks at the graves of Communist soldiers. Some 11,000 are buried at the neatly manicured cemetery, including 1,500 un-

known soldiers. "A wife lost her husband and children lost their father, but as a nation we are happy that we won the war," said Mrs. Tran Thi Ut, at the graveside of her husband, killed as his unit attacked a Saigon radio station during the pivotal 1968 Tet Offen-

She said the end of the war, after which South and North Vietnam were reunited, also meant a family reunion. One of her three sons had fought on the Southern side — in effect against his own father. Nearby, Truong Thanh Hy

walked among the tombstone of fallen comrades. The 71year-old retired Viet Cong major, his uniform heavy with medals for heroism, said he was wounded 25 years ago in action against U.S. troops in the central highlands. Like Mrs. Ut, he echoed

the official policy line heard so often during the Vietnam War — Americans are good people but were misguided by a bad government. Despite the standard response, neither they nor any Vietnamese encountered exhibited any signs of hostility towards Americans.

Kazakhs vote on president's call for longer term

ALMA-ATA (R) — President Nursultan Nazarbayev, voting in a poll expected to extend his term into the 21st century, said Saturday he would organise more referendums to decide other major questions facing Kazakhstan. Mr. Nazarbayev, former Kazakhstan Communist Party boss who became the first national leader after the former Soviet republic became

independent, looked relaxed and confident as he turned up in an Alma-Ata polling station with his wife Tsara. "After the referendum the first task will be to develop democracy, modernise the economy, develop the demo-

have begun," he said as the couple cast ballots two hours after polling opened at 8 a.m. (0100 GMT). "There will be other referendums — we shall talk

cratic processes which we

was clearly suggesting that key legislation on private land ownership and the status of the Russian language would be decided by a popular vote if, as expected, his term is prolonged until December 2000.

Ethnic Kazakhs form less then a half of the country's population. The rest are Russian speakers belonging to Opinion polls suggest Mr.

Nazarbayev, dominant figure for more than a decade in the vast, oil and mineral-rich territory, will secure clear endorsement from Kazakhstan's nine million voters.

ments and groups of dancing girls in sumptuous national dress swirled under blazing sunshine on the steps of the building, adding to a holiday mood as Mr. Nazarbayev cast

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency said in many polling stations in the capital and in regional centres, as many as half the electorate had voted during the first three hours of polling.

Mr. Nazarbayev, who was to have faced presidential elections in December 1996, has staked success on his unrivalled authority and his claim to be a guarantor of stability.

Five influential groups is trying to install a dicta-

torship.

The referendum, called

among his backers in the West.

The United States says Mr. Nazarbayev has taken a step backwards from democracy. Some people interviewed on the streets Saturday echoed similar disquiet. Mikhail Semyonov, a 70vear-old ethnic Russian war veteran, said: "I do not hate traitors. But Nazarbayev has betrayed once and he will do it ten times.

"He betrayed Communist ideals first when he was the first Communist of the republic," said Mr. Semyonov.

Rakhmet, 39, who declined to give his surname, said: "I voted against. Elections in 1996 would have been better. I don't mind Nazarbayev but I do not like the process of dissolving par-

liament. The outline of the final result should be clear by mid-

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part in pipe craftsmanship demonstrations, exhibitions, and round table discussions on the passions, history, and

the art of pipemaking.

La Aurora International Airport (AFP photo)

A firefighter uses a tree branch to beat out a fire after a cargo jet crashed into homes near

6 die as Guatemalan jet crashes into homes

GUATEMALA CITY Santa Fe neighbourhood, a (AFP) — A cargo plane slid off the runway Friday and crashed into a group of homes after landing at La Aurora International Airport, killing at least six people on the ground, aviation officials said

Seven others were injured when the DC-8 cargo jet from a Guatemalan transport company landed on a wet runway at 11:40 (1740 GMT) and exploded in flames in the group of homes near the run-

The dead included a sixyear-old girl, a 20-year-old male and a baby born in an ambulance moments after the mother was injured in the The cause of the accident

was unknown, but officials declined to rule out pilot "Because the runway was

wet, it appears that the pilot

came down too fast and could

not stop," said aviation director Julio Goday.

Earlier reports said the plane was a Boeing 707 but Godov said that was inaccurate. The pilot and two crew members of the aircraft belonging to Lineas Aereas Mayas were rescued.

"We neighbourhood resi-

dents rescued the crew - two pilots and an assistant — but two girls and an adult were killed when the plane hit a about that tomorrow when house," one witness said. the results of this referendum

are known," Mr. Nazarbayev told reporters.

The 54-year-old president

different ethnic groups.

Kazakh musicians played traditional stringed instru-

have declared they back him. But several other movements, including Russian and Kazakh nationalist parties, charge that Mr. Nazarbayev

last month during a constitutional crisis which has left the country without a parliament, has also stirred in



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Churchill's grandson wing on lottery-LONDON (APP) N

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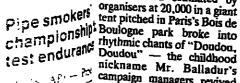
AFP) - Fac mar Salata da Barata . . . Դերույ Lacque De - Time the regge Stellest of - rand Conta io Rismy - Satura > ors M and for her relations : .. ाः स्टब्स्स्य -added.

> Bush visits Normandy

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beaches

Balladur hailed at mass Chirac rally



organisers at 20,000 in a giant

Doudou"— the childhood nickname Mr. Balladur's campaign managers revived to give him a less bourgeois image.

Mr. Chirac, due to speak later in the afternoon, was not there to greet the 65

not there to greet the 65-year-old prime minister, who won 18.6 per cent of the vote in last Sunday's first round, narrowly failing to beat Mr. the second place in the run-The 62-year-old Paris

Leotard and Social Affairs

The crowd estimated by

Minister Simone Veil.

nayor is favourite to win next unday's second ballot gainst Socialist underdog ionel Jospin. An opinion oll released Saturday, the st day on which polls may published, showed Mr. hirac leading 54-46 per cent ith 18 per cent of the electoto per cent of the still undecided.

Mr. Balladur was seated for tween National Assembly reaker Philippe Seguin, g one of his harshest Gaul-critics, and Senate Speak-

Rene Monory.

Hardline Interior Minister Flardline Interior Minister arles Pasqua, who deted Mr. Chirac to support Balladur's candidacy in luary, was also cheered balladur's candidacy in loary, was also cheered on arrival. But the A STATE OF THE STA



Hum refugees wait in the school of the Kibeho camp where some 1,000 displaced persons still remain. Despite the lack of food and water at the camp, the refugees obstinately

refused to return to their home villages for fear of further attacks by the army (AFP photo)

U.N. opposes Zaire move on Rwanda refugees

KIGALI (Agencies) — U.N. and aid workers Saturday expressed disquiet at the possi-ulity Zaire might expel over one million Hutu refugees to Rwanda where a U.N. envoy was already investigating government troops or killed another ethnic massacre. in panic-stricken stampedes. The flight of the Hutus to would discourage people

Zaire after the Tutsidominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) won last year's civil war was described then as an exodus of Biblical proportions during which hundreds died of exhaustion, malnutrition and disease.

Zaire's parliament Friday called on its government to expel the Hutus uncondiponally, a call backed by several ministers in the gov-"The position of the Un-

ned Nations is that repatriation should be voluntary and conducted within safe means," Sammy Kum Buo, a spokesman for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) told Reuters.

"We continue to believe that this (Rwanda) is a humain develope nitarian crisis and the principle of voluntary repatriation in should be respected." he

te tota Chris Bowers, a spokes-ा त्या बेला Rwanda, said Zaire should 1,111 Norta alone: respect international conventions on refugees, to which it : " Right Sat was a signatory, and only esta mer send back refugees voluntari-

> "Our objective is voluntary repatriation and the Zairean government has committed itself to international agreements on this issue,"

Bowers told Reuters. But the international char-

PARIS (R) - Defeated

Prench Prime Minister

tive unity eight days before

the decisive run-off vote.

Mr. Balladur, who broke

chalet to demonstrate sup-

port for his former mentor,

arrived with some of his

closest supporters — Budget

Edouard Balladur was cheered at Gaullist rival Jac-

ques Chirac's biggest presidential campaign rally Saturday in a display of conservaity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) pointed out that last week's carnage at Kibeho camp in the southwest or thousands of Hutus, shot by

from returning to Rwanda. "It's unlikely that these people (refugees) will want to come back in the near future after what happened last week," MSF spokeswoman Samantha Boulton said.

On Saturday, a U.N. special envoy Aldo Ajello was to travel to Kibeho to investigate last Saturday's carnage and to try to persuade about 1.000 Hutus holding out there to go home. Journalists put the number there at 1,000 although aid workers had earlier said it was a few hun-

Troops have cut off supplies to the camp, one of nine holding about 250,000 Hutus whom the government wants to return to their homes. Mr. Ajello's Kibeho trip, scheduled for early Saturday.

was put off until the afternoon, UNAMIR officials In neighbouring Zaire, where the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) estimates 1.2 million Rwandan refugees are living, the parliamentary report for expulsion was being passed to the government of Prime Minister Kengo Wa dondo for action.

Justice Minister Gerard Kamanda Wa Kamanda said the Rwandans could not be allowed to stay forever.

We cannot be responsible for organising the reintegration of the Rwandan refugees into Zairean society." he told deputies concerned about international reaction to such a

Meanwhile, Kenvan President Daniel Arap Moi has backed a controversial proposal to separate Hutus and Tutsis in a bid to end bloodletting in the small central African nations of Rwanda and Burundi.

Kenyan press reports Saturday said Mr. Moi declared that it had been impossible to resolve the conflict between the two ethnic groups by other means and massacres were continuing.

"One way of solving the problem would be for all the Hutus to settle in Burundi and all the Tutsis in Rwanda. or vice versa." Mr. Arap Moi said, speaking Friday in Embu, 100 kilometres (60 miles)north of Nairobi. One Western diplomat

here described the idea as "iconoclastic and dangerous," stressing that it breached the African postindependence principle of the inviolability of borders established in colonial times. Rwanda was gripped by a

three-month-long genocidal civil war last year, in which more than 500,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred by Hutu extremists.

per cent Tutsis, for respective overall population of

approaching eight and six million, the remaining one per cent being Twa pygmies. The conflict, won last July the Tutsi-led Rwandan

Patriotic Front (RPF), sent some two million people, mainly fearful Hutus, fleeing abroad or into displaced persons' camps. Burundi has been wracked

by similar turmoil and its Hutu president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, has warned that the country risks plunging into a genocidal war Mr. Arap Moi was speak-

ing a day after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose also raised the possibility of creating a "Hutuland" and a Tutsiland" as a solution to the region's ethnic troubles. Mr. Arap Moi met the U.S. official in Nairobi

Thursday following visits by

Mr. Moose to Rwanda and Burundi, which were both Tutsi-dominated kingdoms before Europeans arrived. After a press conference in Nairobi Friday, Mr. Moose was asked by AFP whether Washington was studying the

possibility of creating separate ethnic homelands for Hutus and Tutsis. "Sure we are doing it and many other governments are also con-sidering it," he responded. But the U.S. State Department later denied the re-

marks. He (Moose) never made any such comments," an official said. "The assistant trapolation beyond his com-

ment is baseless."

Bihac; diplomats seek new truce the former Yugoslavia." Asked in Belgrade Friday Sarajevo Radio, reported Howitzer, tank and cannon

Fighting, shelling rock Sarajevo,

Fighting and shelling rocked Sarajevo and the Bihac enclave Saturday, while relative calm reigned elsewhere in Bosnia, two days before the end of a much-violated fourmonth truce here which diplomats of the major powers are seeking to save.

Several tank rounds impacted in the Hrasnica suburbs of Sarajevo and on the Igman road leading out of the city. Sarajevo Radio, though no casualties were reported.

Heavy machine-gun duels were heared by AFP correspondents overnight from the frontline Jewish Cemetery on the left bank of the Miljacka River that runs through the besieged city.

U.N.protected Bihac town, in the northwestern Bihac enclave, was hit by nine shell rounds overnight Friday and six rounds impacted in "safe areas" around the town. U.N. Protection Force spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

nian Serb Army) and RSK (separatist Croatian Serbs) were responsible." for shelling the town and its outskirts. he said, adding that fighting was continuing Saturday southand southwest of the

fire against Bosnian army lines close to Bihac since early Saturday and said several people, some of them children, had been wounded in Bihae town in Friday's shelling.

Serb radio, broadcasting from the Serb stronghold of Pale outside Sarajevo reported that two young girls had been wounded in Hadzice southwest of the city by Bosnian mortar fire.

With the fighting continuing, envoys of five major powers met in Paris for three hours Friday apparently seeking to devise a formula of sanctions measures and agreements to unblock a new and effective ceasefire for

Diplomats and military analysts here blamed lack of political progress on why the current ceasefire, which runs out officially at noon (1000 GMT) Monday, had failed to hold.

A French Foreign Ministry "We think the BSA (Bosspokeswoman said the socalled "contact group" which met in Paris Friday - Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -would meet again Wednesday in London and Friday in Paris seeking "mutual recognition between the states of

on the likelihood of Mr. Milosevic, original patron of the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzie, recognising Bosnia-Herzegovina, EU mediator said simply: "There is a dialogue going on and

we'll have to wait and see." Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has promised to agree to a new truce if Mr. Milosevic recognises his country and applies pressure on the breakaway Serbs to end their siege of Sarajevo and agree to the international

The plan, put forward last year, awards the Serb rebels led by Mr. Karadzic 49 per cent of the country with the remainder for the majority Muslim-Croat federation.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi was meanwhile expected in Sarajevo Sunday to see both warring parties and continue his own rounds of shuttle diplomacy between the two sides seeking a deal.

The Bosnian government. which insists it would still rather have a political deal than continued fighting, has rejected appeals to continue the truce without any movement from the Serbs to accept the plan, fearing that

simply extending the truce now would ease pressure on the Serbs to give up territory and accept the plan.

Militarily, the two fighting forces are now thought to be much closer to equality in strength than at the start of the war.

A Western diplomat. speaking on conditions of anonymity, said Friday, "I'm not sure whether they both want to fight at present... A lot of what is going on now is about worrying the other side into submission," he added.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Protection Force said Saturday Bosnian Serb forces have fired two phosphorous shells. banned under the Geneva conventions, into a house in Maglaj, northern Bosnia, in-

juring two people.

A Serb tank fired the two shells into the house shortly afternoon Thursday. Two people were badly burned and one of them had to be transferred to hospital at Zenica, one of the main towns in central Bosnia, UN-PROFOR spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon said.

Under the Geneva conventions, phosphorous shells can only be used to destroy obstacles in the path of troops and not against soldiers in battle. still less against civilians.

U.N. staff and the International Committee of the Red Cross were investigating the incident, Maj. Gourmelon

In Croatia separatist Serbs killed four Croatian motorists on a highway crossing ceasefire lines Saturday in retaliation for the murder of a Serb by an embittered Croatian refugee, U.N. officials said.

Five other Croatians in cars peppered with Serb gunfire on the E-70 Motorway were unaccounted for and U.N. officials said they might have been detained by rebel militiamen demanding the return of the slain Serb's body.

The motorway, reopened in December under a U.N.mediated accord, was closed after the outbreak of armed violence - a setback to the three-year-old U.N. effort to reconcile Croats and the rebel Serb minority in the ex-Yugoslav republic.

It was not immediately Before the war, like secretary of state said both suspected in last month's Burundi, it had an ethnic mix clear how the government Rwanda and Burundi were deadly sarin gas attack here. overpopulated. But any exwould respond to the call but of 85 per cent Hutus and 14 were arrested Saturday.



campaign meeting in Mont-De-Marsan, south- (AFP photo) western France. According to recent opinion

French Socialist candidate to the presidential elections Lionel Jospin (centre) is greeted by a crowd of wellwishers upon his arrival to a slightly cut but he is still comfortably in front

announcement of Mr. Sarkozy and Mr. Leotard's

To complete the show of conservative unity, former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and right-wing anti-Maastricht maverick Philippe De Villiers, who won 4.7 per

cent in the first round, were given places of honour. Only former conservative Prime Minister Raymond Barre, Mr. Chirac's unsuccessful conservative rival in the 1988 presidential election, was missing, on a longplanned lecture trip to Po-

Many Chirac supporters, driven in by bus from across France, carried banners with his apple-tree logo.

Former French Olympic hurdler Guy Drut, the first speaker, warned supporters: 'A race is never won until it's

Musicians Jean-Michel Jar-

sporadic jeers at the reand Michel Sardou, as well as actress Claudia Cardinale. pledged their backing for the candidate. Choreographer Maurice Bejart sent a videotaped message of sup-

> The conservative newspaper Le Figaro said Mr. Chirac. a two-time prime minister making his third bid for the presidency, had reached "presidential altitudes" by proving he could re-unite the right without tying his hands and falling hostage to anvone.

Mr. Jospin's most authoritative backers set out to dismiss Mr. Chirac's charges that Mr. Jospin, a former education minister, lacked statesmanlike experience and was a leftover of President François Mitterrand's controversial 14-year rule.

Mr. Mitterrand came to the rescue. He said in a message read at a Jospin rally in southwest France Friday night that Mr. Jospin "is able to preside tomorrow over the destiny of the republic with his known qualities and competence. Mr. Jospin denied that Mr.

Mitterrand, who has so far paid lip service to his presidential bid, was only lukewarm. "We phone each other, we see each other, we write to each other. Let everyone be reassured, we are together," he told the

Former European Commission President Jacques Delors said Mr. Jospin could open a new chapter in French history. But Mr. Delors, who was favourite for the presidency before deciding against running last December, was non-committal on speculation that he could become Mr. Jospin's premier.

There is room for everyone in tomorrow's France, he said in an interview with the newspaper Le Monde.

TOKYO (AFP) - Three ber wanted by police on

more followers of the Aum Supreme Truth religious cult, police said..

Koíchi Ishikawa, 26, was arrested on suspicion of forcibly confining an Aum member who tried to defect from the doomsday sect, while Yasuyo Senoo, 30, was apprehended for allegedly helping to hide a sect mem-

abduction charges.

A Sarajevan couple runs across "sniper ave-nue" in the centre of Sarajevo, after snipers opened fire on a U.N. bus passing by. Nobody was wounded in the incident (AFP photo)

More Aum sect followers arrested in Japan

Yoshiaki Tanabe, 33, was arrested on suspicion of violating the wireless and telegraphy act, police said,

without elaborating. News reports said Mr. Ishikawa was believed to be Aum founder and guru Shoko Asa-

hara's chief secretary. Earlier Saturday, police arrested Shinya Asano, a

member of the Aum sect. on

suspicion of attempting to

volatile region.

oners of war.

sees as a precondition for a

ports could not be indepen-

Grachev has said that if no

political solution is found by

May 12 hostilities would re-

The Interfax and NTV re-

Defence Minister Pavel

political settlement.

dently confirmed.

steal address lists from a driving license office in Tokyo last year.

Mr. Asano, 26, was discharged Friday from his post as a sergeant of the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) on allegations that he had leaked confidential information to the Aum sect.

His arrest came a day after Takahisa Shirai, another SDF sergeant, was arrested for allegedly throwing a firebomb at Aum's headquarters in an effort to disrupt police investigation.

Police refused to disclose the total number of Aum followers so far arrested, but news reports put it at more

Aum is suspected of carrying out a sarin gas attack on Tokyo's subway system on March 20, which left 12 people dead and some 5,500 others injured.

Chechen truce holds despite sporadic attacks

SLEPTSOVSK, Russia (R) - Russian forces in Chechenya said they were attacked several times by separatist rebels overnight and Saturday morning, but a shaky truce introduced Friday appeared to be holding. Interfax News Agency quoted the Russian command in Chechenya as saving four

servicemen had been badly wounded when the rebels shelled Russian positions near the village of Nozhai-Yurt around 6 a.m. (0200 GMT). Two of the men later died in hospital, it said. The news agency said a Russian post in the Chechen

capital Grozny was attacked soon after midnight (2000 GMT Friday) while another. post in the town of Shali in the east came under mortar fire. No one was hurt, Interfax said. Interfax did not say if the Russians returned fire in any

military told the agency their troops "strictly observed the truce. The agency's report could not be independently con-

of the incidents. The Russian

firmed. Sporadic artillery shooting could be heard Saturday in the settlement of Sleptsovsk outside Chechenya's western horder coming from the separatist stronghold of Bamut 25 kilometres away.

NTV said that despite the Reporters were not allowed to approach Bamut. truce Russians continued Friwhere Chechen rebels have day to concentrate special been resisting Russian forces capable of fighting reattacks for three months. bels in the southern moun-President Boris Yeltsin has tainous region — the last bastion of the separatists ordered his troops to cease

sume.

fire in Chechenya until May squeezed out from northern 12 to avoid fighting during and central Chechenva. A fighter from Barnut told celebrations in Moscow of Reuters Friday that the rethe allied victory over Nazi Germany, due to be attended bels were also preparing for by 50 world leaders. fresh fighting.



A Russian soldier carrying a grenade launcher walks up a hill to take position at a checkpoint near Bamut (AFP photo)

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin said Saturday a ceasefire ordered by Moscow in Chechenya could be extended beyond the original deadline of May

12. RIA news agency said. "The moratorium on military action in Chechenya might be extended beyond the May holidays," the agency quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin

as saying. "I have stated before and state now that we are ready to hold talks with armed units

opposing Russian troops in Chechenya," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as telling a meeting of his new political bloc, which aims to run in December parliamentary

"We are ready not only to have talks but also to cease fire. We have proposed to introduce a moratorium on combat actions and this covered not only the period up to May 10-11," he said

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One-eyed security

THE TORTURE to death by Israel of a Palestinian detainee suspected of being a member of Hamas is in no way surprising given the green light that had been officially given to Shin. Beth security interrogators to resort to whatever force necessary when questioning Arab suspects. Even before last November's decision to grant Shin Beth "more leeway" in interrogating Palestinian activists, Israeli security agents were allowed to use "moderate physical pressure," on detainees, a euphomism for using physical and mental duress against Palestinians when in custody.

The extent to which Israel is prepared to go in its violent crusade against perceived threats to its security and the safety of its citizens can be better gauged when the lax guidelines accorded Israeli interrogators and their accomplices, Palestinian collaborators, are examined in light of additional information linking Israel to a broader and wellcoordinated effort to combat and destroy Palestinian opposition groups wherever they are found. Israeli Major General Ilan Biran was more than blunt when he told the Israeli daily newspaper, Haaretz, Friday that his troops must kill more wanted Palestinians. "We suppose there are still four or five squads we must kill," the general admitted to the newspaper without a token of reserva-

The total picture, therefore, becomes clearer every day about Israeli intentions to kill or torture to death Palestinians opposed to the peace process. A couple of weeks ago, three Palestinians were shot point blanc by plain-clothed Israeli agents in broad daylight because they were suspected of being members of a Palestinian extremist faction poised to strike at Israeli targets.

Must we remind Israel that there may be acceptable ways to combat violence and there are methods that are not. Killing suspects right, left and centre is not exactly the proper way to prevent violence because that could be counter-productive. Likewise, torturing detainees is not something that the international community would condone no matter how grave the threat is.

Israel prides itself as having ratified two important human rights treaties. But an examination of how the Israelis are applying the accords would make current Israeli policies and practices with regard to Palestinians unquestionably illegal under both domestic and international law. The Jewish state cannot continue to brag about its deep and unwavering commitment to democracy and the rule of law as long as it persists in treating Palestinians so brutally and unlaw-

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON a visit to Jordan by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright on Tuesday, May 2, a writer in Al Ra'i daily said that the American visitor would not find a true friend among the ordinary Jordanian citizens. Why does Ms. Albright want to visit us when she always provokes the feelings of the Arab people and describes Israel's confiscation of Arab land around the state of the Arab and Arabana and Arab Jerusalem as a legal act? asked Tareq Masarweh. Ms. Albright's announcement of her planned visit came on the day when she turned down a request by Royal Jordanian Airlines to transport Libyan pilgrims to Mecca and as the Arab masses continue to hear her talking about U.N. sanctions against the Iraqis and expressing satisfaction with Israel's continued closure of the occupied Arab lands, said the writer. Ms. Albright's actions, he said, reflect her hatred of the Arabs and Muslims, whom she is visiting in the coming week against their will.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily urged the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the concerned Arab governments to raise the question of Israel's continued drive to confiscate Arab lands around Jerusalem at the U.N. Security Council. A recent Israeli government decision to confiscate 53 hectares of Arab land to build settlements could help Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to win votes in the Israeli parliamentary elections but certainly the move is bound to erode any remaining hope that Israel would implement U.N. resolutions and give up occupied Arab lands, said Mahmoud Rimawi.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Jordanian-Israeli legal entity

THE MAIN difficulty that delays starting the development of the Jordan Rift Valley is, of course, lack of funding. But even if, by any chance, financing becomes available, a main obstacle facing the implementation of joint projects on both sides of the Jordan Valley is that institutions and enterprises, interested in studying, financing, or implementing any project, do not know if they have to enter into contract with Jordan, or Israel, or with both countries

On October 1994, the World Bank issued a report under the title: "Integrated Development of the Jordan Rift Valley." The report suggested to the parties to decide, at an appropriate time, on a developed management structure, including a legal entity that would assume legal and fiduciary responsibilities for the administration of the programme. Examples of the inter-country cooperation over project development are: Indus River Commission, Canada-USA Great Lakes Commission, and Mexico-USA border area.

The proposed legal entity may act on behalf of all parties. It can be a full-fledged supra-national body created

Such entity is extremely important with far reaching consequences, because the projects talked about, if implemented, will cost billions of dollars.

The entity is not merely a committee of experts, charged with simple coordination. It is a permanent authority, as the implementation of some projects takes up to 10 years, followed by operation for unlimited time.

The political, administrative and legal complications of this entity are obvious. However, the main risk is that of borrowing money under the several or joint guarantee of Jordan. In that case we may repeat our bitter experience of financing development by debt, which may lead Jordan to

fall due. Can the projects pay for themselves?

Israeli economy. It is not known how the debt burden of

big issue which has to be studied thoroughly, and discussed deeply, before we get involved in some thing that may turn out to be a financial and political trap.

LETTERS

'Quick fixes' that fix nothing

To the Editor:

I WAS most encouraging to read your editorial comme "Tools for right use" (Jordan Times, April 26) about recei moves to amend the Traffic Law. It demonstrates a understanding of what is required to improve Jordan dreadful road safety record which, sadly, the responsibility authorities do not seem to have grasped.

Following His Majesty the King's timely pronounce ments on the subject, one could almost hear these authorities belatedly saying "Help! We must do something." However, the something they have predictably resorted to is the easy option of passing new laws to "prove" that they're on the case. What it proves, in fact, is quite the opposite: That those whose formal responsibility it is to address the problems either do not understand those problems or do not regard them as worthy of considered attention designed to achieve genuine long-term, solu-

A comprehensive coordinated, continuing, effort is required on many fronts for many years if the deteriorating situation is to change. Instead, all the people of Jordan have so far been offered by those who should know better, but transparently do not, is a standard "quick fix" which may be quick but which will fix precious little.

It is most heartening to know that, in contrast to the formal authorities, there are those such as the Jordan Times and the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Accidents which share this opinion and which actually know what they are talking about. Perhaps, therefore, it is now time for these other concerned parties to increase the pressure on those who are officially entrusted with redressing the traffic situation.. A national campaign, supported by the press and coordinated with schools and universities, could be just the thing to do the trick.

> John Dales. Amman.

Child or Monster?

To the Editor:

ing consequences.

IT CAN be very boring to sit in a doctor's waiting room until it is your turn. Especially when you are a

Little Abed did his best, trying to find some interesting pictures in the magazines on the table. He was not very successful as the magazines mostly covered political, fashion, or househould matters.

Suddenly he saw a little yellow sponge ball, and he started kicking it around happily. His father looked up from his newspaper, and scolded him. "If you won't put the ball immediately back where you found it, the doctor will come, and give you an injection."
I could not believe what I heard. From now on

little Abed will be horrified of going to doctors, even though they just want to help nim.

For a short while the little boy tried to sit still, but then his natural desire to move, and do something became too strong, and he started playing with the door handle. His mother, being completely absorbed by the latest fashion in a magazine hissed at Abed "If you don't stop that, the police, who is standing outside will put you in prison?"

Little Abed was stunned. So was I. He ran back to his chair, and sat down, dangling | Service his legs, looking around desperately to find something to occupy himself with, without facing terrify-

The colourful corner of the doctor's assistant equipped with all sorts of funny muppets, and decorated with cards caught the little boy's attention. He slowly moved to this inviting, and friendly place just looking at all the interesting things standing around, when again the stern voice of his father threatened him, "Come back here, and sit down, or

the nurse will come and hit you!" As everybody can imagine this was not the first time that I witnessed a situation like, or similar to this, and I ask myself what kind of people these children will become when they grow up full of fear of everything. Can't parents try to understand what's going on in their children's minds, put themselves in their position, instead of threatening them as if they were little monsters?

On April 12 a three day conference about children's rights started. I wonder if the results of this conference included also the rights of children to be brought up as little personalities, who are allowed moving around freely without being crippled inside by

> Cece Masarweb, Amman.

Turkey and the Kurds

To the Editor:

TURKEY WAS a main proponent of the military operation in northern Iraq to protect the Kurdish population there on "humanitarian" grounds.

Now the Turkish authorities declare, tongue in

cheek, that they are determined to put an end to the resistance of the same group of "terrorists," i.e. the Kurds, at all costs. The invasion of a neighbouring country is thrown into the bargain.

Dr. Omar Nago,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

to run Jordan Valley proposed

individually or collectively. Legal complications arise not only at the level of

contracting but also during implementation. How the international contractor, for instance, should behave if he receives a change order from Jordan. Should be comply or wait for an Israeli consent. What if he receives contradicting instruction. If there would be loans, which party would have the right to withdraw funds, or to guarantee the loans or, more importantly, will shoulder the obligation to repay.

by an international treaty, or a development corporation

another crisis but at a larger scale. Israel is already debt-ridden with tens of billions of

dollars. A few billions more will not change the picture radically. Israel does not have to worry about the burden of debt service because the American aid will continue to take care of settling its obligations. The balance is payable to the Israeli treasury by cheque on the first day of November each year, but who will settle the debts of Jordan as they

The Jordanian economy is less than one tenth of the the Jordan Rift Valley development can be shared on 50/50

The bi-state authority, proposed by the World Bank, is a

The second bomb of Oklahoma City

By Mustafa Tell WHEN I first heard the news about the Oklahoma City bombing and the chil-dren who were killed in the day care centre, I couldn't help but remember the children I used to work with when I worked at a day care centre as a student at the University of South Florida, Tampa. I remembeтed how innocent and pure were the children and how different they were from the society outside. The children at that day centre, just like children all over the world, did not hate. They were too young to understand the hatred. bigotry, sexism and racism of their parents, society and culture. I took refuge in that day care centre even vhen I didn't have to work. That day care centre became my shelter from the ugly world of grown ups outside of it. It also gave me hope for the future; hope all of us who witnessed another blow to humanity.

that some of the children will keep their innocence and purity as they grow up. For me, that meant that there will always be hope as long as there are children out there. When I heard that someone had killed that hope in Oklahoma City I was overwhelmed with sadness for the families who lost their loved ones and for

My grief for the children, their families and for all of us was interrupted by waves and waves of hatred and

racism that came through the U.S. media reports about the bomb. I spent the night listening to people saying that my mother, who gave birth to me, and to my sister, does not "value life as Americans do." As for my father, who spends his time in hospitals trying to help people as a doctor, the "experts" in the U.S. media were telling me that he is an 'animal" who does not "deserve to live." I heard U.S. politicians saying that my nieces Zaina (9) and Alia (2) "need to be punished severely." Even my sadness was interpreted as "crocodile tears" and I was told that "people like me" are not worthy to grieve for the American people. My fault and my family's was that we did not grow up watching baseball games eating apple pies. We are Arabs and that was enough reason for the media, the "experts," the politicians and the people in the United States to blame us for the Oklahoma City bombing and then hate us for it!

Well, Surprise. We did not do it. Sorry, said the media, the

"experts," the politicians and the people in the U.S.: We are sorry because we wanted to "ship you back to where you belong."

We are sorry because we

wanted to put you in concentration camps. We are sorry because we wanted to bomb your homeland. enough. It is not enough because the feelings, the hatred and the racism expressed in the U.S. media on Wednesday and on Thursday (19, 20,

We are sorry because we

Well, surprise. That is not

doubted your humanity.

April) were not that different from the views of the people whom the FBI believes are behind the bombing. Yet, we are told by the U.S. media, the "experts" and the politicians in the U.S. that the Oklahoma City bombing is an "individual" and "crazy" act. The hatred expressed by these "individuals' crazy' act is the same hatred we heard on Wednesday and on Thursday coming out from the media, the "experts," the politicians and the people in the U.S. That is very alarming. The people of the U.S.A, need help. Then don't need more anti-terrorist laws. They don't need more prisons and law enforcement agencies. What they need is a deep look inside a system that is built on hatred and racism. The Arabs and the Muslims in the U.S. and in the world, do not need apologies from the American

people. They need under-standing and respect just like all the people of the

world. It is this country and

the people of this country

that need the apologies.
The media, the "experts"

and the politicians in the

U.S. need to apologise be-

cause they built a country

and racism as there is today in the U.S. Just take a look at Nazi Germany and learn. We all value life and the lives of children all over the world. If the media, the "experts" and the politicians in the U.S. are trying

full of hate and racism.

There is no future for a

country with so much hate

to monopolise humanity for "Americans," they are wrong. There is no difference between a mother in Rwanda who travelled hundreds of miles on foot to find a safe place for her kids and mothers in the U.S. The Iraqi parent who came out of a bombed shelter holding his dead son in his hands is not different from the fire fighter who carried the dead child out of the Oklahoma City federal drop from Lebanese mothers, Israeli mothers, Palestinians mothers, Bosnian mothers, Angolan mothers, Sudanese mothers, Guatemalan mothers, Nicaraguan mothers. Sri Lankan mothers and mothers all over the world are not different from the tears of the

Oklahoma City mothers. Let that be the lesson of Oklahoma City bombing so we can put out the racist and hatred bomb that exploded afterward.

Mustafa Tell is a Jordanian Journalist living in Minneapolis/U.S.A. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

demonstrates that he is not

prepared to depart from the

messianic Zionist ideology

which seeks the creation of

greater Israel on all of Palestine. Labour politi-

cians. however, try to com-

ouflage their adherence to

this ideology by staking their claim on the basis of

"security borders" and

"strategic depth," two concepts made obsolete by

modern weapons technolo-

Many years ago a wise

Israeli military man, the late general Yehoshafat Harkabi, told this corres-

pondent that his people

would never begin to treat

the Palestinians fairly or

strive to reach a just settle-

ment with the Arabs until

Israelis stopped speaking of "we" and "ours" all the

time. They had to make the

leap of imagination that put

them into someone else's

shoes and enable them to

see a problem from the

other's point of view, he

said. It is clear that the men

Israeli leaders' failure to make 'imaginative leap' for peace threatens Oslo accord

Michael Jansen

IN A major and highly significant address to American Jewish leaders in the U.S., Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday that Israel had reached its "security border along the Jordan" in 1967 and achieved its essential 'strategic depth." Mr. Peres said that Gaza had no security significance and that "all that remained to be decided was who should rule over the people" in the

West Bank. This revealing statement, reported Friday by Israel Radio in its English bulletin, makes it clear that Mr. Peres, the architect of the Oslo accord with the Palestinians, has no intention of fulfilling the terms of that accord, especially when it comes to the two fundamental issues of withdrawal and self-rule for the

According to Article 1 of that accord, the aim of the negotiations in the peace process was, ultimately, to achieve a permanent status agreement which would lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338." Resolution 242 makes it clear that the withdrawal should take into account the principle that the "acquisition of territory by war" is "in-admissible" and, therefore, that Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 should be total or near

If, however, Israel intends to retain control of the West Bank and to permanently fix its "security border along the Jordan," there can be no implementation of these resolu-

If one adds Mr. Peres' latest pronouncement to a statement made last July during a visit to Cyprus, it becomes clear that the position of the present Labour leadership on the issue of withdrawal mirrors that of the previous hardline Likud government. At that time Mr. Peres stated, in reply to a question during a press conference, that Israel had complied with the provisions of Resolution 242 when it withdrew from Sinai, which amounted to 80 per cent of the territories

occupied in 1967. It would seem that Israel sees its evacuation of 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip as an additional, most generous territorial concession in realisation of the withdrawal provisions of Resolution 242 with respect to the Palestinian occupied terri-

"all that remained to be decided was who should rule over the people" in the West Bank also contradicted the terms of the Oslo first aim of negotiations that an "elected interim Palestinian Self-Governing Authority" should assume that responsibility "in order that the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip may govern them-

selves according to demo-

Mr. Peres' assertion that

cratic principles. Mr. Peres' statement makes it clear that Israel has only been using Palestinian "terrorist" attacks the lack of security for Israelis — as a means for stalling on the implementation of the provisions of the Oslo accord calling for "re-deployment" of Israeli troops "outside populated areas" and the holding of elections. That shows Israel has no intention of ultimately withdrawing from the West Bank and ending the occupation, without which, the Arabs insist. there can be no comprehen-

sive regional settlement. The fact that these remarks came from the "man of peace" and the "architect of the Oslo accord," on the Israeli side.

who framed the Oslo accord - which might have launched a true settlement made that leap of imagination. Instead they still speak only of "we" and "ours" and have no intention of "sharing" Palestine with its native people.

uick fixes' that fix nothing

Editor:

miost encouragine to road your editoral on sees operating the state of the part of the test of the state of the s string file. Manager for King's timely prome the string file of the st

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Veta naverthing - Taller restricted some account of the ball, and seems of the ball and the state of the ball and the bal al reconciliation after last And the second second second of a control of the large books.

"Suddenly it seems there are no good guys in Rwanabout which the control of the constant sales. da," said Care spokesman . The second know if it's a death knell. า : " _ _ า _ เกรู พุทธิร text with the control - - - - केश्वरं but some sort of bell is she Hambins sounding for Rwanda." that there is a second of the second So far, the government SEAR STATE A TOTAL STATE OF THE STATE OF T



Hatu women refugees stand in line for food at a refugee camp which refugees have started to leave for the Rwandan capital Kigali before the massacre (AFP photo)

Kibeho massacre will set back for years efforts to rebuild Rwanda

Rwanda's latest bloodletting has strengthened the hand of extremists who want to topple its governhas done little to shore up ment and set back for years its credibility, shattered by efforts to rebuild the shatthe killings at Kibeho camp tered country. Saturday.

By Terry Leonard

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya —

The killing of at least Prime Minister Faustin 2,000 refugees by govern-Twagiramungu has pledged ment soldiers, and reports to punish the guilty if an that more are being killed inquiry shows the army as they head home, has planned the attack. But outraged donor govern-President Pasteur Bizimunments and endangered the flow of badly needed aid. gu has claimed that only 300 people were killed and that The slaughter also damthe army had been aged moves towards nationattacked.

"The government doesn't year's genocide, and sent a help itself by inisting that only 300 died at Kibehodalling message to more than 2 million refugees still when anyone with a televioutside the country that it sion set knows the figure may not be safe to return was much, much higher,' said Care's Richardson.

Rwanda survives on foreign aid and expertise - and much of the aid has been tied to repatriating refugees outside of Rwanda. Without it, there would still be no electricity, no running water, no telephones.

There would be precious little food and medicine. The Kibeho massacre, in a single stroke, endangered

The Netherlands announced it would suspend \$30 million in aid promised to Rwanda this year. The European Union (EU), which has given \$940 million in relief to Rwanda over the past year, is reassessing its policy.
The Kibeho massacre

the flow of that aid.

also could help extremist Hutu militiamen and former Hutu government soldiers to "make good on the threat to invade the country," said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Re-

fugees (UNHCR). The deaths confirm refugees' fears that they will not be safe at home, a fear that Hutu extremists have exploited to slow the return

of refugees and thwart re-

"The issue of reconciliation surely has been put on the back burner for the foreseeable future," Mr. Wilkinson said.

Just six months ago, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) had estimated it would take one to two years to repatriate the 2 million Rwandan refugees outside the country.
Because of Kibeho, that

process will be take years longer, said WFP spokeswoman Brenda Barton. "Now, there is no end in

sight," she said.
The WFP operation alone for the Rwanda crisis costs 'about \$1 million a day. Extending it and other relief efforts for years will cost staggering amounts of

money "Who is going to come up with that kind of money?" UNHCR's Wilkinson asked.

"I think the man on the street in London or somewhere else is going to throw up his arms in horror and say this just goes on and on and on," said Mr. Wilkinson. "He will say it doesn't seem to be worth it. We give our money and these people go on killing each

Donor fatigue already is fact of life in Rwanda. Shaharyar Khan, the U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, said weeks before the massacre that the donors who pledged \$577 million in 1995 aid in January already were losing patience with the slow pace of change in Rwanda.

of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) very seriously jeopardises the efforts at national reconciliation both

by the Rwandans themselves and by the interna-tional community." Cana-dian Foreign Affairs Minis-ter Andre Ouellet said in a

statement. "I remind the Rwandan authorities that it is their duty to establish a climate of confidence to encourage the return of refugees,"

said Mr. Ouellet. Rwanda has announced it would intensify efforts to dismantle refugee camps inside its borders. But UNHCR officials point out it has not ensured their safety in their home vil-

That was underlined Tuesday by reports that at least nine refugees from the Kibeho area were killed on their return to their village and more than 1,000 have been imprisoned in a bank in the village of Ngenda.

"The government certainly has lost its credibility." said Mr. Wilkinson. Lots of people have lost their lives. Reconciliation has been put on the back burner. Who has won anything? Nobody.'

From the Arabic press

Why Islamists are accused of violence

The following article is translated from the Islamist weekly, Al Sabeel. It was written in response to an article written by the newspaper's editor, Hilmi Al Asmar. Translations of selected articles from the Arabic Press will appear on this page on regular basis from now on.

By Mohammad Nawwaf Kasii

IN HIS column "more than just a word" that appeared in a previous issue of the Islamist weekly Al Sabeel, Hilmi Al Asmar (the paper's chief editor) sought to investigate why Islamists are accused of violence, extremism and terrorism. Mr. Asmar tried hard to refute this accusation in an effort to prove it as being base-

I hope Mr. Asmar would permit me to express my opinion in this very delicate topic and to say frankly: Yes... Islamists are culprits. This, in my opinion, is based on solid facts.

First of all, I would beg Mr. Asmar to agree with me that there is a big difference, in meaning and concept, between the two words "Muslims" and "Islamists." Muslim are those who believe in Islam as a faith and a way of life. A Muslim is one who spares people any harm be it verbal or physical. Islamists, on the other hand, are those who understand Islam as a strict religion which not only negates all other ideologies but fights them. If we base our argument on this difference between Muslims as the ordinary faithful and Islamists as those who carry the sword and use terrorism and violence to propagate their cause, it would become attitude adopted by the West and by some Arab

you find among the Islamor has committed some folpoliticians towards Islam in The west, brother Hilmi, does not incriminate Islam own doing.

as a religion, and does not reject it as a faith. This is especially true since the West respect other creeds that are pagan in nature and accepts millions of moderate Muslims who have been living in the West for decades. I have been one of them. I lived in West Germany, Denmark and Sweden. Many Muslims in the West have acquired the nationality of the countries they are living in and they perform their religious rites with complete freedom and dignity. They have the freedom to express their opinions and perform their rites as long as they stay away from violence and blood-You accuse "the politi-

cians of this nation" that they do not confront those who accuse islamists of being terrorists. I think you forgot what His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have been saying in the United Nations, Washington, Paris and London.. and ignored tens of seminars, speeches and press conferences where His Majesty and the Crown Prince exerted all efforts to explain Islamic principles, the glory of Islam and the humane nature of Islam and its call for

shed.

democratic shura. In my opinion and in the opinion of those who follow up western media, the bright picture that the King and Crown Prince drew about Islam in a civilised style and in a language understood by the West, had served Islam and Muslims millions of times more than what the assassins and muderders have done who you, Mr. Hilmi, are defending and calling "the nation's stars and moons." When I read the arguments you put forward to defend these people, my heart was filled with sadness and bitterness for this handicapped logic that comes from an intellectual who is supposed to lead the nation into the right

The world has changed, Mr. Hilmi. All over the globe, people condemn terrorism and violence. whether it was moral or physical. Islamic or Jewish. Violence in the 21st century is rejected and all of those who employ or promote it are rejected too. How then can you defend those who are responsible for seas of blood being shed in Algeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt and other places... In Algeria alone, and in less than three years, the Islamists have killed more than 30,000 Muslims and hundreds of foreigners.

The Algerian Islamists are in war with the government and not with the people. Whey do they fight the Algerian people then? And why do they threaten the state's employees with li-quidation if they went to their ministries, departments or institutions?

Why do they prevent the girls and boys from going to their schools and colleges? Which law and which religion sanctions its proponents to plant car bombs in populated areas in the heart of the cities killing tens of innocent citizens. Which law and which religion permit its leaders and followers to kidnap girls from schools and slaughter them like sheep and throw their decapitated heads on their colleagues at schools? Which law and which religion permit its followers to plant explosives in cinemas in Amman and Zarqa and detonate them on the heads of cinema goers? Which law and which religion let its followers kill tourists and foreign diplomats in Egypt, Algeria, Lahore, Kabul and the Philippines? When a deranged person shot the French diplomat in Wadi Al Mujib what did this ignorant achieve for his nation

and for his religion? Brother Hilmi you are trying to find an excuse for these people. You say: "If ists one who is taken by zeal ly here or made a mistake there, he alone would be the one responsible for his

What is happening here is not only someone who is taken by zeal and is not a matter of a secluded incident of someone protesting injustice. What is happening here is that leaders. groups and institutions are recruiting members, arming them and setting them loose in this world to mess it up and fill it with terror and demolition. They are in Egypt, Algeria, Kabul, Lahore. Tehran, the Philippines and even in New York, Paris and London, They operate in every city and are present under all circumstances. They speak the same language, the languages of violence, the language of the sword and bullet.

We are not looking here at some "individual practices". We are not dealing with one foolish or stupid action. We are dealing with leaders, fronts and organised groups that kill. slaughter and demolish, unfortunately in the name of Islam. Can those be the nation's

moons and stars? Is this what you are defending? Are those the messiahs who to straighten things, following eternal constitution of God? Is this what the eternal constitution asks them to do? Unfortunately the consequences of those people's, actions do not befell them alone. No, they are infringing on Islam and Muslims. The world has changed my brother Hilmi. We are on the threshold of the 21st century and on this earth there are peoples, nations and other civilisations who have scientific and economic forces that no one can ignore. We are forced to live with them. And violence is no way for cohabitation these days. Violence, regardless of its form, is spurned, locally, nationally and international. Islamists do not employ but violence. And it is no wonder the world outcast them.

Postal services get a ministry stamping

(Continued from page 1)

tion of the post office. We require that small change 32: be available at all offices at and the second s all times... that all types of Latter and the second stamps are available at every office... that managers make sure that all scales are properly balanced... stamps are available at evthat employees do not stick the stamps on the letters... that all of our customers are treated kindly and with respect. Postal directors should make sure that these regulations are followed. Otherwise lowed, otherwise severe measures will be taken

against violators." Hashem Qudah, underecretary for the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs, sent a seven-page letter in re-sponse to the querries made by the Jordan Times. Mr. Qudah said he personally increased nally inspected a number of offices to assess the seriousness of the complaints. The (ces 1/388) post office has already taken decisive action against several employees to curb unscrupulous benaviour, he said, adding that the ministry also appointed new heart ployee behaviour.

Other ministry sources said that all office managers were being reshuffled as well in the hope that the efficiency of the offices would improve.

While the undersecretwith lack of change was limited to insisting ienominations at all times, vinother ministry official i)r. (Ima jointed out that customers iften don't insist on their hange — a disincentive for imployees to keep it on

Ind. FI agree that there is no acuse for not having lange on hand, especially · lat most post offices are ry close to banks. But, if Istomers don't insist," he

said, "employees won't learn that they have to have it at all times. We need the customer to start insisting.

The problem of missing and delayed mail, especially from the United States, is more difficult to tackle. ministry officials told the Jordan Times. Officials said that last year "several" dispatches - each dispatch consisting of three to four bags - originating abroad. in particular from the U.S., and destined for Jordan had been reported missing. However, the officials strongly denied that employees pilfered for treasure in international mail.

As for opened letters and packages, officials pointed out that customs and security have the right to open and inspect mail entering and leaving the Kingdom to ensure that no illegal materials are being posted.

Mr. Qudah wrote that the ministry was well aware of missing mail, particularly from the U.S., and that the ministry had been in contact with the United States Postal System (USPS) since March over the issue. Most international mail that goes missing never arrives in Jordan, he asserted. Therefore, he said, it is incumbent on the country in which the mail originates to follow up the matter, which USPS offi-

cials have promised to do. Other officials added that the ministry has increased its staff at Queen Alia Airport to handle the volume of international mail, avoid delay in delivery and ensure better security for incoming mail. The ministry will have at least two round-the-clock employees to improve services, officials said. Through continuous communication with the USPS and Royal Jordanian, officials said that the problem has been corrected, for the

most part, since late

March. Another official pointed out that some mail arriving from abroad is often not

appropriately addressed. or, as in the case of publications, the sleeve with the address is missing. An entire room at the postal ministry is dedicated to such mail. Mr. Qudah said that one of another common cause of mail not being delivered

is faulty_address. or, no address. The ministry has a department that tries to locate the correct address of the addressee, and it does send letters on for delivery if the address is found. If no address is found. letter is from outside the

the ministry returns the parcel to the sender if the Kingdom; providing a return address is written on the parcel. If the mail is from inside Jordan, the ministry holds the parcel for six months. If it is a registered parcel, the ministry retains it for one year. After these time periods, the mail is destroyed.

If a parcel includes "important things" such as personal papers etc., the parcel is kept at the ministry for five years, after which time it is put into the minis-

try safe. Passports and other official documents are sent to the appropriate authorities. The citizen can help us by writing the accurate and

complete address on the envelope." he said. Publications, he said.

often arrive without an address. If you subscribe to a publication, you can register your name at the ministry to ensure its arrival at the proper address.

The delay in receiving international mail, he said, is due to the lack of sufficient facilities at the central post office, which is the only post office that handles incoming and outgoing international mail. The 17year-old building cannot accommodate the enormous volume of mail arriving; which in 1994 amounted to 83 million parcels — all of which is sorted by hand. Furthermore, the office now handles all incoming and outgoing Iraqi mail which further strains the ability

for timely delivery. The ministry, he said, has plans and land for a new building with electronic sorting equipment, but unfortunately, no finances to undertake the project that is estimated to cost JD 8

All ministry officials during interviews with the Jordan Times expressed their willingness to hear complaints from the public.

"The citizen is most important to us and his complaints help us do our job properly." Mr. Qudah stressed.

Should you have a complaint, address your grievance to the manager of the post office you frequent, then address any postal official at the ministry.

Second suspect held

money.

(Continued from page 1)

lived intermittently since 1993, was the site of an unexplained explosion earlier this year outside the home of an apparent McVeigh acquaint-

Agents examining motel rooms and questioning

friends in an effort to trace McVeigh's movements and find where he got his

It was learned Friday that McVeigh stayed at the Imperial Motel in Kingman for almost two weeks before turning up in Kansas

Weighing the scales central post office in Abda-

imbalance of the scales

generally works in favour of the customer. The ministry has plans to install electronic scales at Amman's 48 post offices to ensure accurate weighing. But the cost of each scale. JD 1,000, means that this will only happen gradually. For now, the ministry has installed two electronic scales at both the downtown post office and the Ist Circle, Jabal Amman office. Mr. Qudah said that this year the ministry planned to bring three more scales programmed with postal rates to the down-

The undersecretary did not comment directly in his fax about the resulting postal charges at office outside the Inter.Continental Hotel + long a source of complaint of foreigners and locals. Another official responsible for the office said that this particular incident was being investigated and said he would submit a recommendation for puni-

ployee(s) involved. The undersecretary said that he is now insisting that all employees provide stamps to be attached by the customer to avoid "miscommunication and mis-

tive action against the em-

Jordan regrets U.N. refusal

(Continued from page 1)

treaty with Israel, which calls for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Mr. Kabariti has warned

town post office and the

against the dangers that Israel's nuclear reactor poses to Jordan in light of its proximity to Jordanian cities, demanding international safety guarantees and international inspection of the reactor,

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Saturday expressed concern about Israel's failure to sign the NPT, criticising the major powers for "exempting Israel" from

signing the treaty. President of the Committee Abdullah Ensour said Mr. Kabariti will soon brief the committee on Jordan's position on the issue. Tunisian Foreign Minister

Said Ben Mustafa who arrived in Amman Saturday with Mr. Kabariti on his way home, said he was satisfied with the outcome of the NAM meeting on the NPT. The Jordan News Agency. Petra, quoted Mr. Mustafa as.

saying that the most important decision of the meeting was "the agreement on the general principles governing the issue of nuclear nonproliferation.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi, who also arrived here on board the same flight as Mr. Kabariti, said Arab states had insisted that no country be exempted from joining the

Mr. Kaddoumi said Israel's refusal to sign the NPT "means that Israel has nuclear arms and threatens the Arab region with them."

Meanwhile, an Israeli-Palestinian committee said that Israel must sign the peace treaty like all other states in the region.

The Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue, established by Oriental Jews, said in a fax to the Jordan Times that over 15 Israeli nongovernmental organisations have signed a document demanding that the Jewish state enter the NPT, which will be up for renewal in the U.N.

Higher oil prices may remove '95 budget deficits of Arab Gulf states

deficit-free budgets this year for the first time in nearly a decade if oil prices remained strong and they maintained projected spending, economists have said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which control nearly 45 per cent of the world's crude, projected an average oil price of between \$12 and \$16 in 1995 and again trimmed spending to tackle the deficit.

"Oil prices have surged by nearly 20 per cent since the beginning of the year and this means an increase of nearly 10 per cent in GCC oil earnings," said Henry Azzam, chief economist of the Saudi

National Commercial Bank.
"If prices maintained the same level through the year and member states did not largely exceed projected spending, then the budget deficit could be sharply lower or even disppear," he told AFP by telephone from Jeddah.

Oil prices reached their highest level in a year this week, exceeding \$18. The price of Brent crude of the North Sea climbed to \$18.74 for June delivery while the

ABU DHABI (AFP) — price of OPEC's basket of Arab Gulf states could have seven crudes stood at \$18.69 on Tuesday compared with \$18.69 on Monday.

Until April 20, oil prices averaged around \$17, much higher than their 1994 average of around \$15.90 and 1994's of \$16.33.

Economists said the situation could be much better if the U.S. dollar was strong as most GCC currencies are effectively pegged to the greenback.

They noted the increase in earnings was partially offset by the decline in the dollar against major currencies since it means a higher import bill.

Oil provides more than 80 per cent of the income of GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwit, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). A sharp decline in oil prices has forced most of them to slash expenditure and withdraw from their overseas reserves

to bridge the budget gap. Spending cuts in 1995 more than halved the combined GCC deficit to around \$9.63

billion from \$17.3 billion in

The deficit hit a record

\$61.2 billion in 1991 due to

to a coalition drive to eject Iraqi invasion forces from

The biggest deficit cut occured in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter. It slashed the shortmics professor at the UAE fall by around 62 per cent to nearly \$4 billion from \$10.6 billion after cuting expendi-ture to around \$40 billion factor for the strong prices is that Saudi Arabia and other

from \$42.6 billion. The improvement in oil prices is a pleasant surprise for the GCC countries," Mr. Azzam said. "It is a positive development that will affect their income unless they are tempted by the higher prices to boost spending."

Experts said oil prices had

improved because most members of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were respecting their output quotas and there have been growing speculation embargo-hit Iraq would not resume oil exports shortly.

Economists said Iraq's re-fusal to accept a United Nations resolution authorising limited oil sales was good news for GCC producers as this bolstered prices and enabled them to keep produc-

Dollar's fall takes its toll on Iranian economy

reliance on the weak dollar for its oil revenues and its growing debts in strong currencies have created a serious balance of payments problem here, analysts said Friday.

Iran has seen its oil income shrink in value because of the dollar's continuing fall, while its debt, mainly payable in strengthening currencies such as yen, marks and Swiss francs, has grown, they said.

The greenback's spectacular drop of 20 per cent since autumn has offset an increase in oil prices over the same period, an increase which Iran had been banking on to

As Iran gets 80 per cent of its hard currency from dollartagged oil sales, it has suffered a five per cent decrease in its purchasing power in a few weeks, said Mohasen Yahyavi, a member of the Iranian parliamentary oil

The dollar's fall affects all the oil producing countries but Iran is particularly vulnerable as Germany and

Japan are its main creditors. A third of Iran's \$35 billion short and middle term debt is priced in marks, yens and other strong currencies, ex-

Tehran is protected by a fixed exchanged rate provision in its contracts with Japan, but the same does not apply to its debts to Ger-

The seven to eight billion marks owed to the Germans will now cost Iran an extra \$600 million if the greenback sticks to its current level, a

European expert estimated. Western analysts fear that Iran's drive to honour its debt would be compromised if the dollar does not regain at least some of its former value. In an attempt to meet its

debt commitments, Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran's has slashed its imports by two thirds in two years and has stopped supporting its currency, causing a sharp rise in inflation and a severe social

> "Another one or two billion dollars to pay could be heavy to bear as there are already serious doubts about Iran's ability to pay back the debt without further rescheduling," a European analyst

Iran's debt servicing over the next five years is expected to cost between \$6 and \$7 billion annually, according to Western experts who estimate that Tehran will find it difficult to reduce its imports below this year's \$11 billion

Experts believe the country's combined oil and nonoil exports will generate, at best, \$18 billion annually, of which nearly \$2 billion have been earmarked in advance for oil investments.

"In this strained financial context, a sustained drop in the dollar could have far more devastating effects on Iran's economy than the oil embargo that the United States has been considering,"

The difficult situation "shows our vulnerability and our extreme dependance on the dollar," said the Iran News, a daily newspaper close to the government.

Several parliamentary deputies have called on the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to set oil prices within a currency basket to reduce the impact of the dollar's fluctuation.

"OPEC will have to take a decision at its next ministerial meeting on June 18, in Vienna," said Iran News, which added that an emergency meeting should be held earlier if the situation continues to deteriorate.

Japan mulls way to cope with dollar mountain

TOKYO (R) — Japan, holder of the world's largest official foreign exchange reserves, would like to trim the amount of dollars it holds in the long-term but cannot make drastic changes now, senior finance ministry officials said.

"It is desirable to allocate foreign reserves in a number of currencies in the long run, but we can't take any action in the near term," a senior ministry official told Reuters this week. More than 90 per cent of Japan's foreign reserves, which hit a record \$141.52 billion at the end of March, are believed to be held in U.S. dollars. Currency details are not disclosed.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura hinted at reducing dollar assets earlier this month, telling reporters: "Such portfolio reshuffling can be considered as a part of long-term reserve management strategy."

In the longer term, it is worth giving serious thought to cutting back on dollar assets and instead parking some funds in other currencies, a government source

The dollar's depreciation of more than 20 per cent against the yen this year has prompted calls from Japan's ruling coalition to boost mark assets while unloading dol-

But the finance ministry, which is in charge of the country's reserves management, is cautious.

"There hasn't been any policy change in the management of external reserves," another senior ministry of finance official told Reuters.

His remarks were in re-

which said the ministry would soon have to stop buying U.S. treasuries using external reserves.

"If we sell dollars for marks in the current volatile market, it would strengthen the mark even further," the first finance ministry official

Also, he added, such an action would not conform with coordination among major nations in the currency.

The Group of Seven nations Tuesday agreed that an orderly reversal of recent currency movements was desir-

The dollar hit a record low. of 79.75 yen on April 19. "We can't take any action until the market shows signs of long-lasting stability," the first ministry of finance offi-

One way to gradually reshuffle the reserves, the official said, would be for Japan to ask international lending institutions to repay loans which Japan had previously made, in currencies other than dollars. Such loans, however, cover only a small portion of the foreign reserves, he noted.

A third ministry of finance official said that increasing gold reserves was no solution either, and would contravene a 1978 understanding among International Monetary Fund (IMF) members.

That agreement committed IMF members to not increase their gold holdings from levels existing at that time and instead treat the IMF's credit units, called Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), as a major reserve asset.

'The U.N. is bankrupt'

CANBERRA (R) — United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali said Friday the United Nations was bankrupt and the persistent failure of U.N. members to pay levies was one of his greatest frustrations.

"I am bankrupt - the U.N. is bankrupt. This is one of my greatest frustrations," Dr. Ghali told a National Press Club luncheon in Can-

"I knock on the door of all

the member states — please we need your contribution — I am not very successful," he The U.N.'s 185-member states were supposed to pay their levies in January, but

only 25 to 30 paid on time

and some had not paid at all, Dr. Chali said "I have done everything to convince the member states ate with this chronic financial crisis," he said. "I have no way to put pressure on the member states — they are my clients and have to respect

their rights." A Sydney-based U.N. spokesman said the organisation had "no mney in the bank," but added it could not be technically bankrupt as it was not a legal entity which could borrow money or have

On Thursday, the United Nations proposed a 4.2 per cent cut in overall spending for the first time since 1974.

ASK YOUR DOG IF

OUT AND PLAY ..

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

HELLO DOC! SORRY TO

CALL YOU IN THE

MIDDLE OF THE

NIGHT BUT I

FEEL SICK!

HE WANTS TO COME

Peanuts

Fed efforts towards soft landing for U.S. economy seem to bear fruit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A slowdown in U.S. economic growth in the first quarter of this year suggests that the Federal Reserve's (Fed) seven interest rate hikes in the past 15 months are succeeding in achieving the desired soft landing, analysts

The U.S. economy grew by a moderate 2.8 per cent in the first three months of 1995, the weakest growth since the summer of 1993, the Commerce Department said Friday, a marked slowdown from the 5.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1994.

The increase in gross domestic product was lower than analysts' forecasts of a three per cent increase, and was a marked slowdown from 1994, when GDP for the whole year grew 4.1 per cent, the economy's strongest

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown welcomed the first quarter figures, saying "the economy is moving to a more sustainable long-term growth

Delos Smith, an economist with the Conference Board said the figures were "right in the middle of the target" aimed for by the U.S. central bank, adding "I am sure the Fed is celebrating with cham-

The Fed started raising interest rates early last year in an effort to slow the economy's steep growth and

HE SAID,

WOULD YOU COME BACK TO YOU?

TWELVE

LISTEN, DOC-

HOW MUCH DO

YOU CHARGE

FOR A HOUSE

forestall inflation, aiming at a growth rate of 2.5 to three per cent, which it considered appropriate for sustainable

growth with low inflation. The challenge now facing the Fed is to maintain a steady growth rate while detecting any warning signs that the economy is speeding up again, or sliding back to stagnation and recession, Mr. Smith said.

Other analysts, however, said that a detailed study of the first quarter economic figures painted a less reassuring picture.

ohn Lonsi, chief economist with New York ratings agency Moody's noted that growth in consumer spending which accounts for about two-thirds of GDP and has been the driving force behind the U.S. economic recovery had slowed markedly in

Consumer spending grew just 1.4 per cent, a quarter of the increase in the previous three months.

Another sign of a rapid slowing was a 0.6 per cent drop in exports, Mr. Lonski said, while a marked increase in factory stocks suggested that given the slowdown in consumption, production was likely to drop further.

"If we don't have a rebound of consumer spending an exports... there is a risk that the U.S. economy will slow down to less than two per cent," growth, Mr. Lons-

HOW COULD

HE 5AY,"NO"?

DOGS CAN'T

TALK..

WHISPERED

GUESS SO. I RECKON THE PLACE

WOMANS

TWELVE?

HOW MUCH

FOR AN

OFFICE

DOLLARS.

VISIT?

ki warned. On the consumption front, preliminary indications for April are hardly encouraging, he said, pointing to the persistent weakness in retail sales and a 10 per cent fall in auto sales during the first three weeks of this month. Auto sales fell 10 per cent in the first three months of

ducing above its ceiling, the

increase has remained limited

and could be easily absorbed

by the market given the high

demand in the first quarter."

said Yusuf Khalifa, econo-

"But the most important

key Gulf producers are stictly

observing their quotas. There

is no doubt the continuation

of such a situation will greatly

help their attempts to restore

balance to their budgets and

A breakdown by the state-

run Emirates Industrial Bank

(EIB) showed all GCC coun-

tries suffered from budget

shortfalls in 1995. The deficit

stood at \$3.3 billion in

Kuwait, \$320 million in

Bahrain, \$290 million in the

UAE, \$800 million in Oman

and \$900 million in Qatar.

spending by 3.7 per cent this year will have limited nega-

tive effects on the economy," EIB said in a study. "The

economies of member states

are expected to generally sta-

bilise and some of them will

achieve growth rates similar

"The decline in GCC

But Mr. Lonski said he expected consumption to pick up in the second quarter, given that disposable income grew much faster than prices in the first quarter — 4.4 per

cent against 1.4 per cent. And the fall of the dollar should help boost exports. which Mr. Lonski expects to increase by 15 to 20 per cent against in the coming

Analysts here generally feel the latest figures make it raise interest rates again in the near future, for fear of tightening the screw too much and pushing the eco-

nomy back into recession. This will not please Washington's major trading partners, notably Japan and Germany, which have been urging higher U.S. rates to try to curb the slide of the dollar, which has lost 20 per cent of its value against the yen in the past four months. But Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has argued that there is no sign of infla-

DOGS CAN

WHISPER?

THAT'S HIS DEFINITION OF SCRUBBING, WASHING, SHOPPING

O.K. I'LL MEET

YOU IN YOUR

OFFICE IN

TWENTY

MINUTES!

Professor says U.N. should bring ROC in from the cold

WASHINGTON - An American jurist said that the United Nations and the rest of the international community should realize that it is unconscionable to deny Taiwan a proper place in the international com-

sor of law at Georgetown University, said at a conference on contemporary Chinese law that Taiwan, with its economic strength and willingness to contribute to the international community, should be given the opportunity to enjoy the international par-

ticipation that it seeks. Finerman said that the United Nations can take the first step by allowing Taiwan to participate as an observer or permitting Taiwan to join peripheral specialized organizations.

THE BETTER HALF,

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Finerman noted that Taiwan has made some inroads in recent years into international nongovernment organizations, but the specialized organizations of the United Na-

tions remain closed. He said that it is in-Taiwan's size and prominence in the international community to be denied access to the United Na-

"As the principal international organization in the world," he said, "the United Nations needs to remind itself of its principle of universality."

The conference was the second of its kind sponsored by the Eastern Law Division of the Library of Congress. The first conference on contemporary law

By Glasbergen

was held in 1992.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 30, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Steer clear of an argument this morning and then enjoy social activities in the afternoon, but be practical tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Seek the pleasure activities which do not cost too much, and you can have a fine time just the same. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find it difficult to get a talent working this morning, so get out and be social, and later do whatever will build up your energy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The situation at bome may be tense this morning, but later tonight all is smoother. Exercise tact

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Attend some fine philosophical lecture today which will help to life your spirits this morning, and then be

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to solve some problem which you may have regardless of where you may be. Use more logic in practical matters.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your desires are not clear in your mind this morning, but after lunch you know what you want to

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It would not be wise to work angles this morning, since later a good partner shows how to handle the matter properly. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A friend could

confuse you this morning, but later everything clarifies itself, and you can be with good friends tonight. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This morning is not good for going out, but after lunch is an ideal time for such, and

tonight you can enjoy friends. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may be confused this morning, but by early afternoon you see things more clearly and tonight you can gad about town.

18:

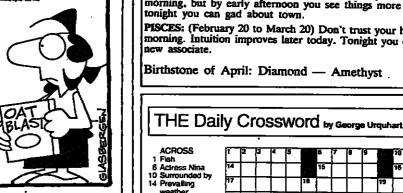
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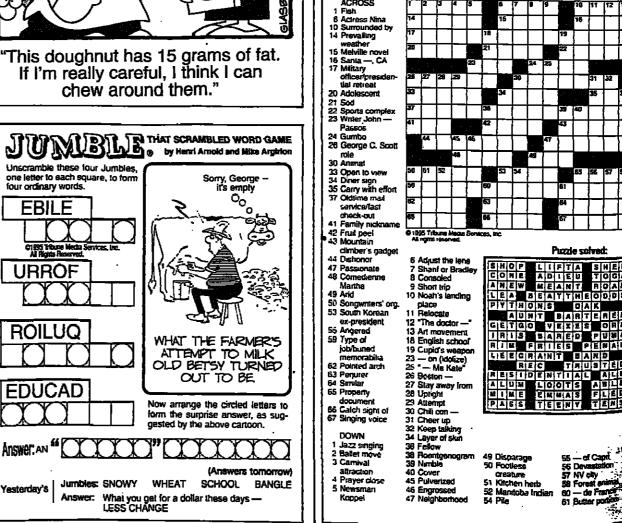
Ter Will de. Sut manne. III) Profit

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't trust your hunches this morning. Intuition improves later today. Tonight you can make a Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst



"This doughnut has 15 grams of fat. If I'm really careful, I think I can chew around them."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME B by Henri Armold and Mile Arginon **EBILE** URROF ROILUQ WHAT THE FARMER'S ATTEMPT TO MILK OLD BETSY TURNED OUT TO BE **EDUCAD** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon.



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Business & Finance

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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

derm hur danot aske thanges now marks in the current the mark even funds the mark even funds and. **Insurance** Also he added action would be a with coordination and a matter to the coordination and a matter to companies still seeking the stone of the higher rate for vehicle The dollar had see third party insurance

* THE GENERAL assembly of the Jordan Insurance Companies Federation has formed a committee to press for floating rates on third party vehicle insurance, abo-ishing the "unified office" and trying to amend some insurance laws. The federation president said that the increase in third party vehicle insurance rate has reduced the losses of insurance companies but statistics should be prepared and presented to the concerned authorities to achieve another increase that would correspond to the volume of losses (A! Dus-

** THE DIRECTOR of the tenders department at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing said that during the past four months, the department dealt with 95 tenders worth about JD 80 million. The volume was 100 per cent higher than the amount of tenders during the first four months of last year. Most of the tenders dealt with design or supervision and with con-ducting feasibility studies on projects to be carried out in 1996 (Al Dustour).

Manufacturing Company will * ** EL-ZAY Readywear Manutacturing Company will begin marketing its products next month. El-Zay has signed an agreement with an buying 50 per cent of El-Zay's products estimated to be 60,000 suits in the season Italian company which will be at the initial stage. Output is expected to rise to a maximum of 150,000 suits at a later stage (Al Aswaq).

* THE INTERMEDI-ATE Petrochemical Industries Company earned JD 5.8 million from sales last year compared to JD 5.04 million in 1993. Yet, due to higher international prices for raw materials in addition to lower supplies in outside markets. the company posted a loss of JD 262,221 between Jan. 1 to June 30, 1994 and a JD 103,679 profit in the second half of last year. The company had total assets of JD 8.78 million at the end of last year compared to JD 10.54 million at the end of 1993 (Al

* * THE JORDANIAN Expatriates' Investments Holding Company will distribute ID 250,000 in dividends, at a rate of five per cent, for the first time since it was established. The company earned its income from investments in the following companies: 41 per cent in the Global Carpet and Rag Industries Company, 37.7 per cent in the Philadelphia Insurance Company, 56 per cent in the Mediterranean Real Estate Company, 51 per cent in the National Philadelphia for Commercial Investments and 55 per cent in the Jordanian-Lebanese Company for Manufacturing Chocolates and Confectionaries (Al

★ TRIAL PRODUCine Industries Company will begin in the second half of May 1995 with commercial production expected in late June or early July. The company's annual report shows total assets of JD 9.5 million at the end of 1994 (Al Ra'i).

1 ★ LOSS OF the Universal Insurance Company nartowed from JD 126,000 in 1993 to JD 43,000 in 1994. The company collected JD .04 in premiums last year ut two of its departments. b vehicle and the general cidents, posted a JD 95,000 s while the other two deartments, fire and marine. corded a JD 52,000 profit. otal assets at the end of 994 stood at JD 2.4 million

World airlines hit profit in '94

GENEVA (R) — World air-lines in 1994 made their first profit on global routes for five years and look headed for an even better result in 1995, the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) has reported.

IATA said the net overall profit made by its 230 member airlines was \$1.8 billion, against a loss of \$4.1 billion in 1993, and predicted that on present trends they could make a further net profit of \$5.5 billion this year.

This would be the first time since before the first oil crisis of 1973 that IATA airlines collectively had made a net profit of 4.5 per cent on revenue from international

The figures, announced in a speech in New York by IATA Director-General Pierre Jeanniot and released in Geneva, marked a clear recovery after four years of losses between 1990 and 1993 which totalled \$15.6 billion.

The 1994 profit, which re-flected an operating surplus \$500 million better than earlier estimated and reduced interest costs on loans, was almost double and positive balance of \$1 billion IATA said last November it ex-

pected for the year. But Mr. Jeanniot, and IATA officials in Geneva, warned that even combined with the expected boost this year the long-troubled indus-try would still be well below an acceptable profit of seven per cent on scheduled international services.

The airlines say they need to attain this level to enable them to make necessary investments in new aircraft and technology as well as to update equipment to conform with environmental standards, and to meet generally rising costs.

The 1994 profit was only 1.6 per cent of revenue, and the 1995 forecast — an overall operating profit of \$9 bil-

lion, if achieved — would still be 2.5 per cent short of that target, Mr. Jeanniot told an airfinance conference.

The IATA chief also warned potential dangers lay ahead - a growth of capacity if airlines were tempted to buy spare U.S. aircraft made cheap by the dollar's fall, a surge in fuel costs, and government efforts to milk the industry with extra charges.

"We will need to overcome major roadblocks in the form of airport and aircraft constraints. And we will have to resist excessive demands from charging authorities for funds to pay for new infrastructure," he declared.

The last year IATA members returned a profit on their international operations — which include carrying passengers and freight - was 1989 when the figure was just \$300 million.

between the liquidators of BCCI and the National Com-

mercial Bank (NCB) of Saudi

Judge Maryse Walter told

the court she would announce her decision on

that deal on May 19.

The deal with NCB, its

former chief operating officer Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz

and an associate, Pakistani

banker Haroon Khalon,

would settle allegations that

As the global economy dipped into recession, the airlines which during the boom heavily in new aircraft were especially badly hit, and Gulf crisis of 1990-1991 was a further blow to revenues.

But traffic began to pick up again during 1993 and in 1994 passenger movement increased by eight per cent, outstripping the growth in seat availability as new aircraft came on stream by three per cent, and planes were flying 68 per cent full.

Freight traffic grew by 14 per cent.

In the first two months of 1995, Mr. Jeanniot said, passenger growth was only seven per cent but freight was running at 16 per cent. Overall traffic for the year looked likely to grow by 8.5 per cent against 10 per cent in 1994.

Mr. Jeanniot implicitly recognised that successful airlines were the major motors of the improvement and that poor performers were holding back a much stronger recovery by the industry.

BCCI creditors face fresh compensation delay

Arabia.

LUXEMBOURG (R) -Creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Com-merce International (BCCI) could face months of further delays in getting compensa-tion after four former bank employees appealed Friday against a \$1.8 billion settlement.

The appeal was filed in a Luxembourg court on the grounds that the settlement would be "contrary to Luxembourg public order and would violate the principles of equality," the appeal document said.

The settlement with BCCI's main shareholder, Abu Dhabi, was termed "economically unacceptable and not high enough."

Under the settlement, agreed on Jan. 31 as part of a global \$2.2 billion package, payments to creditors had been due to begin during the

"It will cause a serious risk of a delay for months and months (on payouts)," liquidator Georges Baden told Reuters.

The appellants are Nasir Mahmud, a former BCCI branch manager, Ali Qayum, an ex-international officer in London, and former bank

Financial

Markets

Currence

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Japanese Yen

U.S. Dollar

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Cairo Amman Bank

New York Close

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1.25

USD/Oz JD/Gm Metal

386.80 7.50 Silver

officials Mansoor Malik and a settlement of \$245 million Halida Shafiullan.

Court-appointed liquidator Julien Rodin expressed frustration at more delay. "We were practically ready to pay late summer to all the creditors. Now, because of four people, everything will be delayed for I don't know how long," he said.

The court takes its summer recess from July 15 to Sept. 15. So unless the appeal is heard within the next two and a half months, it will have to wait until the autumn and first payments to creditors may be delayed until the end of the year or later.

The 250,000 creditors had expected a first payout of about 20 per cent of money they lost when BCCI, once one of the world's largest private banks with more than \$20 billion in assets, collapsed in July 1991 amid

allegations of massive fraud. Mr. Baden estimated that about \$8.5 million was lost in interest each month that the creditors had to wait for their monèv.

In a separate legal process on BCCI, Mr. Baden put forward his case Friday for a Luxembourg court to

New york Çêste

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they were involved in covering up the BCCI scandal.

NCB is expected to agree to pay into the settlement if it does not have to admit liability for the collapse of the bank and drops counter claims against BCCI.

In return, the liquidators would drop a \$10.5 billion lawsuit filled earlier against Mr. Mahfouz and NCB, a former customer and investor in BCCI.

Under a separate arrangement, \$180 million already paid to the district attorney of New York would be handed over to the liquidators if two conditions were implemented.

Mr. Baden told the court that these conditions were a signed agreement from Mr. Mahfouz and agreement from the liquidators to use strict screening procedures to prevent money being paid out to "dishonest people". such as money launderers and drug traders.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 29/04/1995



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JORDAN CULP RAME	6721	19690	2.960	2.930
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ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	27900	41460	1.470	-6/U 1 ABD
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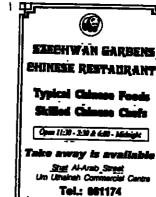


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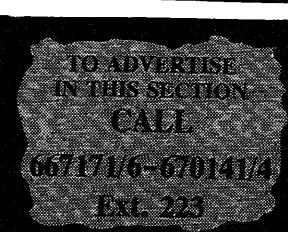


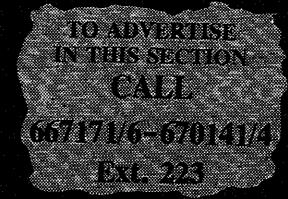


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JSF Shield

Faisali, Ramtha clash today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Irbid's Al Hassan Stadium will Sunday witness the elimination of one of the country's top soccer teams, Al Faisali of Ai Ramtha, from the first round of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield competition.

The knockout tournament, grouping the Kingdom's 12 Premier League teams, is the first of the season's four prestigious soccer titles. The other three are the Jordan Cup, the Cup Winners' Cup and the Premier League.

Al Ramtha, who came in second place in three of last season's championships, will seek to upset Al Faisali, last year's Cup Winners and Jordan Cup titlehol-

Al Faisali got off to a bad start this year after disappointing results in the Arab Clubs championships. They were surprisingly also

thrashed 4-1 by Al Jazireh in the recently-concluded Amman Soccer Championship.

The winner of the Group 3 Ramtha-Faisali clash will meet newcomers Al Jalil in the second round. Al Jalii had eliminated Al Russeifa

The participating teams have been divided into three groups. The top team m each group will play the final round to determine the winner of the 15th JSF

In Group 1, titleholders Al Hussein Irbid overcame Al Ahli 5-4 on penalty kicks after the match ended in a

Amman Soccer Championship winners Al Jazireh continued their impressive form overcoming Sahab 1-

2ND ROUND MATCHES

Baqaa vs Wihdat Jaiil vs (Ramtha-Faisail

Petra Stadio

Al Hussein and Al

In Group 2, 1994 Premier

League champs Al Wihdat

advanced after overcoming Al Qadissieh 3-0 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw.

Newcomers Al Bagaa up-

set Kufrsoum 1-0, and will

Al Faisali, Al Wihdat,

and Al Ramtha are all after

a record fourth JSF Sheidl

Al Wihdat were the win-

ners in 82, 83, 88. Al Faisali in 87, 91, 92, and Al Ramtha 89, 90, 93.

Al Jazireh were the win-

ners in 81 and 86. Amman

in 84 and 85, while Al Hus-

sein's 1994 win was their

first and only major title.

May 4, and the final round May 12.

The second round begins

next face Al Wihdat.

Jazireh will now clash for a

place in the final round.

Bruguera and Ivanisevic join injury list

MONTE CARLO (R) -French Open champion Sergi Bruguera and big-serving Goran Ivanisevic on Friday followed Pete Sampras on to the growing injury list among contenders for next month's Paris Grand Slam event.

Bruguera, winner at Roland-Garros for the past two years, hurt a knee in the second set of his quarter-final against Italian Andrea Gaudenzi at the Monte Carlo Open as he crashed to a 7-6. 6-2, defeat.

Croat Ivanisevic, another candidate for the French Open title; made his way into the semifinals after an extraordinary three-sets win over Austrian Gilbert Schaller despite an elbow injury which suddenly turned his fearsome serving arm into a purveyor of double faults. The fourth seed went to

CAREER

Position Specifications

Ovalifications

career progression.

ten (10) days to:

hospital for x-rays after the match amid fears he might be forced to pull out of the clay court tournament which is proving costly to the top

On Wednesday world number two Pete Sampras withdrew after sustaining an ankle injury in his opening match. He returned to the United States for two weeks total rest.

The rising casualty list in the run-up to the French Open starting on May 29 can do nothing but shorten the odds on victory for newly enthroned American world number one Andre Agassi, not playing in Monaco, in his quest to become the first player since Rod Laver to have won all four Grand Slam events.

Fifth seed Bruguera, a true clay court specialist

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who could be Agassi's most dangerous rival in Paris, was back in action only recently after an operation on his left knee in February.
"The pain came at 2-2 in

the second set. This time it was the other knee," the 1991 Monte Carlo Open champion said after his defeat by 14th seed Guadenzi. "I'm not worried about Roland Garros, I'm just worried about my knees.

Ivanisevic had plenty to fret about, too, after going to the verge of breakdown in his win over the unseeded Schal-ler. The Croat lost the first set and struggled to level the match after a tiebreak in the second before serving for the match at 5-2 in the third. But his elbow seemed to

McDonalds

seize up as he double-faulted four times in a row to give Schaller the game.

Jordan plays in charity tourney

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Under-22 national basketball team Sunday plays for 5th place in the charity tournament currently underway in Malaysia.

Sponsored by the Muni-cipality of Greater Amman, the team is representing the city of Amman in the eight nation tourney which concludes today. Jordan finished third in

Group B which also includes the Philippines, Russia and Thailand.

Group A includes China. Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia. The top two teams in each group qualified to the semifinals in which the Philippines and China are expected to defeat Singapore, and Russia and move to the finals. sia and move to the finals.

Group A and B third place finishers Jordan and Malaysia

will play for 5th and 6th places, while winless Thailand and Australia will play for 7th and 8th places.

Jordan had scored their only

win 81-62 over Thailand. They lost 80-75 to the Philippines and 52-48 to Russia. The tournament is the first set for the Kingdom's U-22

team which will represent the country in the Men's Asian team will also play in the Arab U-22 competition scheduled to be held in Amman in April 96 and the Asian U-22 competi-tion later next year.

The team playing in Malaysia includes only two players above 22: Team captain Jihad Saliba and Marwan Saeedi. The rest of the lineup is made up of a promising young group who have been chosen to be the Kingdom's new national team. These inlude U-18 stars Zeid Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh, Mahmoud Sha'aban in addition to Ziad Nabulsi, Riyad Ayesh, Yousef Abu Baker, Naser Alawneh, and Faisal Nsour. Mohammad Al Shamali, Ramez Ham-moudeh and Ghaith Ennabi missed the competition but are

also on the team. The Jordan Basketball Federation has however been criticised for letting go of many veteran players who were still ready and able to play on the national team. These include Marwan Ma'touq, Yousef Zaghloul and Hilal Barakat.

Magic rout **Celtics**

ORLANDO (AP) - Shaquille O'Neal, who guaranteed the Orlando Magic wouldn't be swept in the first round of the playoffs again, kept his word Friday night by leading a 124-77 rout of the Boston Celtics.

The Atlantic Division champions buried memories of last year's three-and-out showing against Indiana, rid-ing O'Neal's inspired play and improved free throw shooting to a 47-point defeat of Boston, worst in the Cel-tics' storied history. The victory relieved the

Magic of a burden that even the best record in the Eastern Conference couldn't lift during the regular season. Orlando won 57 games but strug-gled down the stretch, losing seven of its last 11.

No one felt the pressure more than O'Neal, whose poor foul shooting is the team's biggest weakness. He was a different player at the line Friday night, much more deliberate in his approach in making 11 of 14 and scoring 23 points.

Nick Anderson added 20 points for Orlando and, like O'Neal and the rest of the Magic's starters, sat out the fourth quarter while the bench completed the most lopsided game in Boston's storied history.

The Celtics' previous worst loss was by 44 points to Portland in 1977. Dee Brown led Boston with 20 points, but Dino Radja was held to 10-17 below his season average against Orlando.

Game 2 of the best-of-5 series will be played Sunday at Orlando Arena, where the Magic won 39 of 41 regularseason games.

Orlando scored 16 of the game's first 20 points and led by 22 before settling for a 54-36 halftime lead. It was 88-56 after three quarters. Bulls 108, Hornets 100 OT:

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Michael Jordan burst back into the playoffs with 48 points,_10 in overtime, and the Bulls took the homecourt advantage away from

Jordan hit a bank shot with 2:03 left that gave the Bulls a 100-95 lead and followed that



with a bullet pass to Luc Longley under true basket. Longley's bucket decided the

Charlotte missed four of its first five shots in overtime, and Jordan hit all four of his. It was his 31st 40-point playoff game. Neither team had more

than a two-point edge in the fourth quarter, and with 2:05 left, Longley tied the score for the sixth time in the period, 92-92. That's the way it stayed until Muggsy Bogues missed a 12-foot jumper with 1.1 seconds left and Scottie Pippen grabbed the rebounds. Pippen missed a dunk on a lob pass from Toni Kukoc as regulation time ex-

Alonzo Mourning led the Hornets with 32 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocks. but it wasn't enough to overcome Jordan down the Spurs 104, Nuggets 88: At San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 13 of his 21 points in the third quarter as the Spurs defeated Denver, which last year as a No. 8 seed eliminated top-seeded Seattle in a first-round playoff series.

The Spurs ended the third quarter with a 19-4 run launched when Elliott sunk a 3-pointer and followed with a dunk. His 5-of-6 shooting in the period, including two 3pointers, boosted the Spurs to a 78-60 lead going into the final period. David Robinson scored 14

points in 30 minutes — his third lowest total of the season — and rested most of the fourth quarter, along with other San Antonio starters. Robinson also grabbed eight

scored in double figures: Vinny Del Negro had 18 points, J.R. Reid 14, Chuck Person 10 and Avery Johnson 15-points and eight assists. Bryant Stith led the Nuggets with 16 points. Phoenix 129, Portland 102: 0f title
At Phoenix, Charles Barkley

the playoffs with a big vic-The Suns, who swept their Pacific Division rivals this season without being able to outrebound them in any of the five games, turned the trick 45-37 Friday night, with

had 29 points and 16 re-

bounds as Phoenix opened

Dan Majerle made 7 of 10 3-point attempts and finished with 25 points for the Suns.

A.C. Green collecting 11.

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Jordan Open Abu Hamda sails through quarters

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

MAN — The Kingdom's current top ranked and 1993 despion Imad Abu Hamda sailed through the quarterfin-the Jordan Open Tennis Championship Saturday 6-1, 6-0 win over Khaled Nafa. Hamda will next play Marwan Hanania in the

als today. Hanania advanced after a 6-4, 6-2 win

reaching the semis was Ihab Shehadeh with a 7-5, over Ramzi Halabi, while Ahmad Al Hadid and Omar Bataineh 7-6, 6-2. six players had registered for the championship, the three rounds leading to the Kingdom's Open tennis

Hamda had no trouble overcoming his opponent in an 45 minutes.

ever Nafa' who is only just 15, showed signs that he fountedly a promising young player.

1994 junior's champion admitted that he lacked experience and said that was the main hindrance to er development.

Figure 1 have the chance to play better, more experi-enced players like Imad. That is the main thing players lack here." Nafa' said in a post-match statement to the Jordan The Kingdom's tennis scene now has a good number of

young tennis players. However, they lack the chance to play their veteran counterparts who opt to quit the game early or are currently abroad pursuing their studies.

These include Laith Azzouni, who has chosen to concentrate on his tawjihi exams this year. His brother Faris, who played in the Davis Cup two weeks ago, has also surprisingly opted not to participate.

Top-ranked Abu Hamda, who is of course favoured to win the event, praised his young opponent.

"Khaled has the potential to play much better. If these young players have the opportunity to play the older ones on a regular basis. I'm sure they will improve much faster."

Today's matches

ihab Shehadeh vs Ahmad Al Hadid 4. p.m. Imad Abu Hamda vs Marwan Hanania 5 p.m.

All matches are at Al Hussein Youth City tennis courts including those deciding 5-8 places.

(Scotland).

Rovers should have the

firepower to gain three points

at Upton Park and put the

title out of United's reach.

Blackburn in sight of title LONDON (AP) — Black-

burn could be crowned English soccer champion Monday for the first time in 81 iston nie years.

The team assembled at huge cost by owner Jack Walker and manager Kenny Dalglish bids to move 11 points clear of defending tit-

If it does, and the Reds fail to beat Coventry Monday. the title goes to Blackburn for the first time since 1914.

Rovers finished runner up to United last season, only two years after gaining promotion to the Premier League. major title since the FA Cup

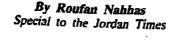
in 1928 Walke Walker took over the un-Call Tel: 824542 or 791057 fashionable club from northwestern England four years FOR RENT ago and persuaded former Liverpool star Dalglish to end his retirement and take over running the team.

As a town, Blackburn hasn't progressed much since its days as the center of the textile industry in the last century. But Walker and Dalglish have weaved together a team that could dominate even mighty Manmished Apartment For Res Chester United, Arsenal and Liverpool in the next few years and put its name on the

map in European soccer. Dalglish has teamed up England's top striker Alan Shearer with Chris Sutton, a 5 million-pound (\$8 million) purchase from Norwich, and the two have scored an combined 56 goals this season in

Rovers' title drive. Other noted international players on the team are goalkeeper Tim Flowers (Engand), defenders Colin Hendry (Scotland), Henning Berg (Norway), Paul Warhurst (England), Henning Warhurst (England), Henning Warhurst (England), Market (England), Market (England), Midfielders David Batty (England), Tim Sherwood (Wales) and Stuar Picture (Wales) and land), defenders Colin Hen-Tim Sherwood (Wales) and Stuart Ripley (England) and

♣ A Q ↑ A Q J 10 8 5 ↑ 6 2



AMMAN — Jordan remained in 6th place after rounds 17, 18, 19, 20 in the 8th Asia. Africa and Middle East Bridge (BFAAME) Championship which started here on April 22.

India remained in the lead with 381.50 points, followed by Egypt who moved up to second with 364.50 points while South Africa dropped to third place with 330.00 points.

In round 17 Jordan played Pakistan 15-15. Russia, who is a bona fide member of the European Bridge League and is playing here by special invitation of the BFAAME, lost 13-17 to Jordan in round 18. The Kingdom's team then beat Saudi Arabia 18-12 in round 19, and finally in round 20 Jordan defeated Sri

Results of the open teams round 20:

Home Team	Away Team	VP Score
8 Russia	1. Mauritius	12-18

India leads bridge championship

13 Sri Lanka 11 Bangladesh 9. Réunion 12 Kenya 10 S. Africa 2. India	3. Jordan 5. S. Arabia 7. Egypt 4. Syria 6. Pakistan Bye	12-18 13-17 15-15 5-25 15-15 18

Standings in the eight-nation women's competition after rounds 13, 14 and 15 came as follows: India is still in first place with 269.25 points followed by Egypt with 254.00 in second place and South Africa is third with 246.50.

Jordan's women team is still in 7th place with 165.00.

Women's teams results of round 15:

Home Team	Away Team	VP Score	
1. Jordan	4 Sri Lanka	18-12	
6. S. Africa	7. Pakistan	23-7	

Representing Jordan in the men's team are Ghassan Ghanem, Marwan Ghanem, Arafat Al Saheb, Samir Zein, Omran Abu Dheim and Suleiman Abdo.

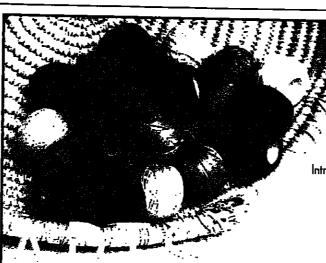
Representing the women's team are Sireen Barakat, Reem Andoni, Mais Aloul, Alia Shraideh, Antoinette Akasheh and Taghreed Akasheh.

The championship, held at the Forte Grand Hotel under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, will conclude May 3. The top two teams of the competition will participate in the World Bridge Championship due to be held in Beijing in Septem-

The open and women's semifinals will be held on Mon. May 1. Open and women's finals will be held May 2, 1995. And the competition will conclude Wednesday May

Here are the standings following the end of round 20:

RANKINGS				
Open Teams		Women's Teams		
1. India	381.50	1. India	291.25	
2. Egypt	364.50	Egypt	279.00	
3. S. Africa	330.00	3. S. Africa	269.50	
4. Réunion	301.00	4. Pakistan	227.25	
5. Sri Lanka	299.50	5. Sri Lanka	200.50	
6. Jordan	267,25	Réunion	191.50	
7. Mauritius	252.00	7. Jordan	183.50	
8. Pakistan	238.25	8. Kenya	131.50	
9. Syria	237.50	-		
10 Bangladesh	234.00			

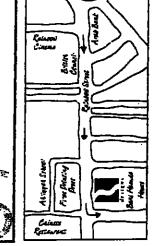


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common. Like the physician, declarer's task is to diagnose the problem, isolate the threat, then complete the cure. Here's an example of what we

North's double of four diamonds, by the nature of West's preempt, cannot be based on a trump stack. Rather, it is made on enough general values to expect to defeat the convalues to expect to defeat the con-tract, but partner is free to pull the double with an unsuitable hand. South's hand was certainly better suited to offense and there were 100 honors to soften any mortal blow. West led the acc of diamonds and

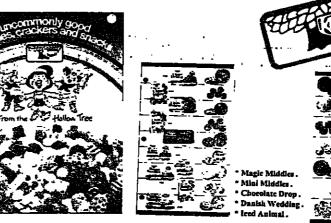
continued with the queen. Declarer "covered an honor with an honor," East ruffed and shifted to a spade. Declarer finessed, West won and returned a diamond. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and tried the club finesses—draw one

It was unlucky to have both black-suit finesses fail. However, declarer had only to study the auction to diagnose the disease and the antidote would have been obvious.

East was marked with a singleton

East was marked with a singleton diamond on the bidding. Therefore, that defender was the danger hand—declarer cannot afford an early spade lead through the major tenace. The remedy was simple— declarer should refuse to cover the deciarer should refuse to cover the queen of diamonds at trick two. If East ruffs, the king of dia-monds is established for a spade discard. If East refuses to ruff, declarer simply wins the next trick, draws trumps and takes the club finesse. Although this loses, a long club is set up to take care of the spade queen. Declarer's only re-maining precaution is to rise with the ace when East shifts to a spade.

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ANLAN TREATMAN Presents: ... The political sails.

Mandela selis

CAPE TOWN (AFP) _

President Nelson Mandela

sold the shirt off his back and

the shoes off his feet in a bid

to help his ruling African

National Congress (ANC) in

Western Cape province out

of financial trouble, South

African public radio reported

Saturday. At an auction late

Friday, two of the colourful

shirts the president favours

were sold for 4,000 rand

(\$1,000) and 8,000 rand

(\$2,000), while a pair of run-

ning shoes which he wore

while serving 27 years in jail as a political prisoner went

for 10,000 rand (\$2,700).

Other items ranged from Mr.

Mandela's reading glasses to

crystal glassware and auto-

graphed copies of his auto-

biography Long Walk To Freedom. Altogether the au-ction raised 150,000 rand

(\$41,600), which will help the

ANC in the province to pay off a 300,000 rand (\$83,00°

the shirt off

his back

Turkey says most goals achieved in north Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — The Turkish government has achieved 80 per cent of its goals in the military campaign against rebel Kurds in northern Iraq. Defence Minister Mehmet Golhan said on Saturday.

"Two thirds of the troops have been pulled out after more than 80 per cent of the targets have been reached," he told the Anatolian news agency in the southern city of

Responding to Western criticism of the incursion launched with 35,000 men on March 20, Mr. Golhan said: "We did not go into that territory to stay. Troops will withdraw when all targets are reached:" He gave no date.

Ankara says it troops went into northern Iraq to smash camps of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in the area and to cut off support for guerrillas inside Tur-

It says the PKK, taking advantage of a four-month feud that split Iraqi Kurds in the region among themselves, was preparing to declare the area a "liberated zone" under its control when Turkey moved in.

Mr. Golhan said troops remained in the rugged Mezi-Kerya Deri region. "Fighting can break out

anytime, when troops have

NEWS IN BRIEF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday

attended the charity dinner honouring pioneering Jordanian women graduates from the Lebanese American

University (LAU) at the Inter. Continental Hotel, a Royal

Court statement said. The Queen distributed gifts to the

eleven graduates praising their initiative in pursuing their

higher education during the early 1930s and 1940s. The

LAU, previously known as the Beirut University College,

was established in 1960. Its Alumni Club organises fund

raising events for scholarships for needy students at

Jordanian universities and has also founded a successful

handicrafts development centre known as Al-Aydi Founda-

tion. Queen Noor was received by William Habib, the

Lebanese ambassador, Dr. Haydar, the deputy president

of the LAU and Mrs. Leila Halasa, acting president of LAU Alumni Club. She was accompanied by Her Royal

Highness Princess Ghida Talal, a Royal Court spokesper-

Fresh protests at Bahrain University

NICOSIA (AFP) - Students staged fresh protests at

Bahrain University on Saturday a week after courses

resumed following an extended break because of unrest in

ine country, university members said. Police fired tearga-

at students who chanted "victory to Islam and death to the

tyrants," a professor and students told AFP by telephone.

There was no official confirmation of the demonstrations in

the university sites in Sakhir and Issa town, south of the

capital Manama. Lectures resumed at Bahrain University

on April 22 after a three-week break. Sporadic clashes have

erupted in Bahrain since a leading Shiite Muslim cleric was

arrested on Dec. 5 and eventually expelled after calling for

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates

(UAE) has given \$10 million to the World Bank's aid fund

for Palestinian self-rule as a contribution for the 1995/96

financial year. The donation brings to \$15 million the UAE's total contribution to the Palestinian National

Authority (PNA) since it was established in the Gaza Strip

and Jericho a year ago, the emirate's news agency WAM reported. An unidentified official quoted by WAM, said

his country pledged at a donors' meeting held in Washing-

ton in September 1993 to grant the PNA \$25 million over

five years. In Paris on Thursday, donor countries agreed to finance the self-rule authority's 1995 budget deficit of \$136

Iraqi volunteers get heavy weapons

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein has

equipped a new volunteer corps set up last year with assault

tanks and anti-aircraft guns, a youth television station

controlled by one of President Saddam's sons said Satur-

day. The 60,000-strong corps, called the "Fedayin of Saddam," also took part in a military parade with the Iraqi

army for the first time on Friday to mark the president's

58th birthday, the television said. The unit has been given

tanks, guns and armoured troop carries, the television said.

Paratroopers and frogmen serving with the volunteers were

also shown on television. The corps was set up last October

as the United States and allied countries rushed troops and

equipment to the Gulf in response to an Iraqi troop

build-up near the border with Kuwait. Around 20 young

Iraqis who enlisted as volunteers in the corps were on state

television in October ripping apart and eating raw a wolf

Sudan's diplomats in Uganda return home

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's ambassador to Uganda and

his staff, ordered out by Kampala a week ago., have returned home, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA)

reported on Saturday. It said Ambassador Inayat Abdul

Hamid and diplomats of the Kampala mission arrived in Khartoum on Friday night. Uganda broke diplomatic

relations with Sudan on Sunday, accusing its embassy in

Kampala of spying for Ugandan rebels and providing them

with logistical and other support. Police searched the residence of Sudan's Military Attache Hayder Al Hadi

Omer on Monday, saying they were looking for landmines.

military uniforms and other equipment purportedly des-

Berbers rejuctant to end school strike

TUNIS (R) - Berber children trickled back to Algerian

schools on Saturday despite an agreement to end an

eight-month strike over recognition of their language. local

journalists said. The offiical APS news agency said children

"flocked to classes." But a journalist who toured several schools in Tizi-Ouzou, the main city in the mountainous

Kabylic regions, said he saw only a few at school. Most had

stayed at home, he told Reuters in Tunis by telephone.

About one million schoolchildren and students walked out

of classes in Algeria's main Berber regions last September.

tined for the rebels. They found nothing.

during a training session.

the restoration of parliament.

UAE gives PNA \$10 million

Queen attends LAU charity dinner

CHARLEST CHALL OF CHARLES ASSET THE RESERVE CHARLEST CHARLEST CO.

gone through that area, we will pull out," he said.

The region is north of the Iraqi Kurdish towns of Derkar and Batufa and a main guerrilla base. "The area is so steep it is

accessible only by foot. Heavy weaponry is useless there." a security source said. Turkev has brought home 23,000 of the troops but its Western allies insist on a total

withdrawal from the region. The six-week-old incursion into northern Iraq has cost about \$47 million so far. Mr. Golhan said on Friday.

Mr. Golhan was quoted by Anatolia as saying the cost of the drive, in which 35,000 troops took part at the height, was less than had been expected. It was the first time a Turkish official had clearly priced the opera-

The parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe said this week it would suspend founding-member Turkey if it did not leave northern Iraq by end of June.

A senior Turkish diplomat who returned on Friday from talks in the region with Iraqi Kurd leader Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said Mr. Talabani had pledged to stop a PKK formation in PUKcontrolled areas of northern Iraq.
The diplomat. Cenk Duatepe, said reports that several hundred men from PUK's rival Kurdistan Democratic Party had replaced departing Turkish troops in some areas. were

encouraging. Ankara wants the Kurds of northern Iraq, who are at odds with the Baghdad government, to block PKK movement on their side of the border.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK took up arms for a separate state in the southeast.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said on Saturday police had seized the alleged cul-prits of more than 10 bombing attacks in Istanbul and linked them to the PKK. In a statement issued by

her office, Ms. Ciller praised Istanbul police for uncovering those behind the bombings, in which at least four people have died since November.

The statement described the suspects as "PKK-linked" but did not identify them nor say how many they were.

The latest bombing attributed to the suspects was the explosion of a car bomb on April 21 in Istanbul in which one person died.

Blair wins vote to change party rules

LONDON (R) — British opposition leader Tony Blair took a big step towards power on Saturday when a special conference of his Labour Party voted by a two to one margin for a new rulebook designed to appeal to middleof-the-road voters.

The conference heeded a warning by Mr. Blair that Labour needed to scrap its 75-year-old constitution, with its commitment to mass nationalisation, if it wanted to a string of four general election defeats since 1979.

"I did not come into the Labour Party to join a pressure group. I didn't become leader of this party to lead a protest movement," he said in a keynote speech to the

conference. "Power without principle is barren. But principle without power is futile. This is a party of government and I will lead it as a party of government," Mr. Blair said.

Britain's two biggest unions, representing transport and public-sector workers, voted against Mr. Blair. But the overall union vote, accounting for 70 per cent of the conference total, broke down 38-32 per cent in his favour.

Among rank-and-file members, who cast the remaining 30 per cent of the vote, the margin of support was an overwhelming 27-3

per cent. The outcome was a resounding victory for Mr. Blair, who shocked party traditionalists last October when he said he wanted to grasp the nettle of reforming clause four of Labour's rulebook.

Although the clause's commitment to wide-scale nationalisation meant little in practice, it was an important symbol for many left-wingers of the party's roots and be-

But Mr. Blair insisted voters would not trust Labour with power unless it was prepared to abandon out-of-date ideology and campaigned long and hard to put his point actoss.

In an emotional speech of thanks, Mr. Blair said the conference would go down as a day of destiny for Labour and for Britain.

Alluding to the widespread view that he was rash to seek change so soon after becoming leader last July, Mr. Blair said: "If sometimes I seem a little over-hasty and over-urgent, it's for one reason and one reason only: I can't stand these people, these Tories, being in government over our country.

"The people of Britain don't deserve this government. They deserve something better, and today we have shown that we can win their trust to provide something better.'

The nine-to-one margin of support he won from grassroots members will encourage Blair to further prune the influence of trade unions.



British Field Marshal 'Manty' Montgomnery (third seated from right) receiving the anconditional surrender of Ger-

many from German state officers at Leineburg Heath. Germany. The surrender of Germany came after the Soviet seizure of Berlin on May 2, 1945 (AFP photo)

Organised crime, extremism and extradition key themes at Cairo meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — A U.N. conference opened on Saturday on cooperation against organised transnational crime as a dispute loomed in the background over the perennial problem of extradition and political asvlum.

Dignitaries called at the formal opening session for a concerted campaign against the big crime syndicates widely seen as a growing threat to international law and order. "New and rapacious forms

of criminality have been taking advantage of the very trends that have brought so many benefits: improvements in information and transportation technologies. relaxation of border controls and the internationalisation of world markets." U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in a message read

out.
"Rising crime is impairing development and the general well-being of humanity.... it requires coordinated international action, with close cooperation among states."

Officials of the agency in Branch in Vienna, say they tional judicial coordination, nance terrorist activities.

want the 10-day conference to find ways to put into practice commitments member states have made at previous meetings.

These would include exchanging information, simplifying and standardising extradition procedures and updating legislation to keep up with new forms of crime. such as computer crime and crime against the environ-

But host country Egypt. with some backing from Tunisia and Turkey, has tried to put the spotlight exclusively on "terrorism" - acts of violence by their political opponents.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told the opening session that terrorism and organised international crime were two sides of the same

"I would like to invite you from this podium to intensify your efforts to avert this danger, which threatens individuals and groups, wrecking peace and security, preventing prosperity and progress and turning society into a jungle." he said.

The way to prevent terrorcharge, the U.N. Crime Pre- ism was extradition agreevention and Criminal Justice ments and rules for interna-

Egypt and the other two Middle East states with oppositions in exile submitted separate but similar resolutions saying there are links between organised international crime and groups which carry out acts of political violence.

In pre-conference, consultations on Friday, the resolutions ran into opposition on the technical grounds that they reached the secretariat too late and only the Egyptian one was accepted for submission to the full confer-

But the Turks and Tunisians may merge their resolu-tions with that of Egypt, if they can all agree on a text.

Diplomats said mainly Western countries opposed the resolutions as blatant attempts to win international support against the three governments' political oppo-

Turkey's resolution of "terrorism." apparently aimed at Kurdish rebels in exile, said: "There is a growing connection between terrorist groups and illicit trafficking in arms and in drugs and the proceeds from such trafficking are utilised to fi-

Egypt has been pressing for years for countries to extradite exiles it says are linked to the Gamaa Al Islamiyaa, the largest militant organisation fighting to overthrow the government.

Tunisia would like West European governments to stop granting political asylum to leaders of the Al Nahdha movement, the Islamist party banned in Tunisia. It savs they are wanted in connection with acts of violence.

More than 1,500 officials and experts gathered in Cairo for conference which lasts until Mav 8.

Delegates from 128 nations had already arrived Saturday. but 140 nations are expected. Most countries sent their interior or justice ministers, although the United States and France among others sent more junior officials.

More than 60 nongovernmental organisations and 360 independent experts are also attending.

The fight against organised crime, terrorism, corruption and crimes to the environment are to top the agenda. Delegations are also to discuss how to harmonise extradition procedures, and improve police, courts and the

debt, including a 267.06 rand (\$74,000) telephone bill, accumulated during all-race elections last April. Anarchists held after call

to 'kill' Pope

TRENTO, Italy (AFP) - Two anarchists were detained in this northern town Friday after posting posters with calls to "kill the Pope," police said. The wording of the appeal was tongue-in-cheek as it gave potential killers a choice between snakebites. poison and a blow with the fist, according to the police. The Pope of Rome Karol Wojtyla, (a) tyrant" was guil-ty of the "worst crimes against women, men, animals and nature," said the poster which was signed "The Anarchists." Pope John Paul II is to visit Trento Saturday and Sunday, marking the 450th anniversary of the Council of Trento. Officials said the two anarchists were known police. Leaflets denouncia the visit and criticising the Pope for having given his blessing to wars and dictatorships have been found in

Norwegian nurse held over deaths of 10 pensioners

OSLO (R) — A nurse was arrested on suspicion of killing 10 patients at an old-age home near Bergen on the Norwegian west coast, police said. Bergen Police Superintendent Svein Erik Krogvold said the suspect, an unidentified 38-year-old woman. would be questioned during the weekend. "I can confirm one arrest has been made and it is the person who has been at the centre of the investigahe told Norwegian radio. "The suspicions involve 10 deaths." The investigation was launched after 42 pensioners at the 58-bed home died in 1993, twice as many as the year before. Police soon focused on the auxiliary nurse, who had been on duty at the time of many of the deaths. Questioned but not arrested, she was suspended last June. She has since been on sick leave although the suspension was later lifted. In the only previous case of its kind in Norway a male nurse was given a 21-year prison term in 1983 for murdering 22 pensioners at an old-age home near Trondheim.

Americans paid thousands for fake nobility

LONDON (AFP) - Two British conmen were convicted of duping rich Americans into paying tens of thousands of dollars for worthless aristocratic titles granting non-existent privileges. One Florida couple thinking they were buying negotiable British titles as an investment for their mentally handicapped child were fleeced of \$63,000, the court heard. Other victims answering advertisements in the Wall Street Journal, The Economist and other publications offering "magnificent British titles... over 1,000 years old" reportedly included a clergyman and [lawyer. Stefanos Kollakis and Martin Lewis, convicted of fraud, had sold titles such as 'Lord of Bodardle" and "Lord of Breckenthwaite."

U.S. names 7 countries that support 'terrorism'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — low with 321 attacks reported the report said.

The State Department on worldwide last year — 66 of It added, how Friday named Iran. Iraq. Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, and Cuba as countries that supported terrorism last

Secretary of State Warren Christopher submitted the department's annual terrorism report to Congress and legislators considered a new request from President Bill Clinton to expand government powers in the fight

against terrorism. A car-bomb attack in Oklahoma City last week that killed more than 100 people has made the issue a top priority for the Republican-

controlled Congress. Any country identified by the State Department as supporting "terrorism" can be subject to U.S. sanctions or denied access to loans by international financial institu-

"The American people want us to stop terrorism." Mr. Clinton said in a White

House Rose Garden appearance. "They want us to put away anyone involved in it. The State Department report, titled "Patterns of Global Terrorism," said "ter-torist" attacks hit a 23-year

them anti-U.S. attacks -down from 431 in 1993. A record 665 terrorist attacks were committed in

But while the trend was positive, the report noted an upswing in attacks by extremists, many of whom oppose the course of the Mideast

peace process. "Iran is still the most active state sponsor of international terrorism," the report said, adding that Iranian activities concentrate on Iranian dissidents abroad.

While Tehran has tried to moderate its public image in the West, Iran continues to use terrorism as ruthlessly as it did under Khomeini and supports groups, such as Hizbollah, that pose a threat to Americans," it said.

The report accused Syria of helping Iran fuel the pro-Iranian Palestinian group Hizbollah.

Sudan provides safe haven for some of the world's most violent groups — including Hizbollah. Hamas. Islamic Jihad, and Egyptian Muslim Muslim militants in Algeria. Tunisia, Kenya, and Eritrea.

It added, however, that "there is no evidence that the government of Sudan con-

The State Department attributed the high death toll last year to a particularly bloody attack against the Argentine-Israel Mutual Association in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, that killed 100 people and injured another 200.

Hizbollah may well have perpetrated that attack, the State Department said.

Damascus, it said, continues to give "terrorist" groups refuge and support both in Syria and the Lebanese zones under its control, although there is no evidence that Syrian officials have been involved in planning or executing terrorist attacks since 1986.

Cuba, no longer able to support armed struggle in Latin America, still grants safe haven to "international terrorists." the report said. Iraq provides asylum and

training to various "terrorist" groups and continues to wage "terrorist" attacks against Iraqi dissidents both inside and outside the country, it

Libya drew criticism for its refusal to hand over suspects in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. ducted or sponsored a speci-fic act of terrorism in 1994."

North Korea maintains contact with "terrorist" groups and since 1970 has sheltered members of the Japanese Red Army, the report said. "Domestic terrorism and

political violence in general is probably more serious today, said Philip Wilcox. State Department coordinator for coutner-terrorism.

Recent trends. he said. were use of "mass civilian targets" and weapons of mass destruction such as the recent nerve-gas attacks in Tokyo. Mr. Wilcox said the threat posed by "psychotic or de-viant religious elements" also

The State Department said there were no confirmed acts of international or domestic terrorism last year inside the United States.

has increased.

Mr. Clinton unveiled a \$1.5 billion anti-terrorism measure Wednesday to broaden law enforcement authority to monitor potentially violent groups and prosecute

U.S. congressmen say Israelis ungrateful

The Jerusalem Post REPUBLICAN members of

a U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee delegation charged Israel of violating the 1985 Free Trade Area (FTA) agreement between the two countries and of being ungrateful for U.S. aid at a meeting with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in Jerusalem on Wednesday.

A source close to the congressional delegation said Republican Congressman Bill Thomas, who chairs the House foreign affairs subcommittee on trade, told Shohat that based on information he had from the administration. Israel is violating the FTA by not abolishing tariffs on agricultural imports.

"You are not allowing us to export oranges, and are I taking advantage of the Uru-

guay Round to avoid your Israel's agriculture. FTA obligations." Thomas was quoted as saying. Under the FTA agree-

ment, all goods from both countries are duty-free since January. The agreement with the U.S. however, allows both countries to protect agriculture through non-tariff

The problem facing both countries is that under the recently concluded GATT trade agreement, all member countries are required to replace non-tariff barriers with tariffs. The US official position is that Israel must conform to both agreements. thereby exposing the country's agricultural sector.

Industry and Trade Ministry Foreign Trade Administration director Zohar Peri said the U.S. position would mean the obliteration of Congressmen Gary Acker-

Finance Ministry International Division director Ehud Kaufman pointed out that both the new GATT agreement and the FTA make provisions for a separate agricultural policy, and that negotiations with the Americans would preserve the original intent.

Thomas also attacked the trade imbalance in Israel's favour as proof that Israel was not giving U.S. exporters

Republican Congressman Dan Mica of Florida was reported to have said, "I don't understand how you can behave like that. If it wasn't for U.S. aid. your neighbours would have squished you like a bug."

In response to Mica's statement, New York Democratic

man noted that Israel's strength was not solely de-pendent on the U.S. but on the IDF and the defence budget.
"The U.S. interest in Israel

is not dependent on oranges." Ackerman said.

Thomas reportedly motioned to Ackerman, implying he should be sitting on the Israeli side, to which Ackerman responded: "If you're trying to imply that I'm not an American, you're not in a position to do so."

U.S. embassy spokesman Richard Scorza said: "We are very pleased with the FTA." He admitted that there is a difference of opinion on the interpretation of the agricultural provisions, but said "it is too early to assess how much of a problem it is, as we still have an adjustment period of one year."